

**Telecom price dispute:**  
Compete, don't whine,  
Smart tells off Globe

**Red Bull fined**  
P500,000 for PBA  
game walkout

**Daughter of taipan**  
Al Yuchengco quits  
family holding firm

**Welcome back Superman:**  
A guide to some of best  
comics on Man of Steel



## OFWs remit billions of dollars but skip banks

BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN REMITTANCES BY maids and other migrant workers employed in Asia's wealthier economies bypass the region's banking systems, according to an Asian Development Bank study released yesterday.

The Manila-based ADB said remittances averaging \$100 to \$500 a month per guest worker could be leveraged as a financial tool in developing labor-exporting countries if the funds were channeled through banks.

OFWs REMIT/A15



Wednesday, June 28, 2006

★★ 5 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 200 P18

website: www.inq7.net

## World Cup fever leaves GMA cooling her heels

By Armand Nocom

ROME (Via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo got caught in World Cup fever yesterday and had to wait for 30 minutes before she could see Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

WORLD CUP/A17



# 'Pope knows about Garci'

## Bishop explains 'well done' applies only to death penalty abolition

## Dark horse emerges in race for new PNP chief

By Luigi A. del Puerto

WHO WILL SUCCEED DIRECTOR General Arturo Lomibao as chief of the 115,000-strong Philippine National Police?

It appears to be a toss-up between the two most senior PNP officers, but lately, the name of a third contender has emerged.

Director Servando Hizon, chief of the Directorate for Comptrollership, is the dark horse in the race for one of the most coveted posts in the government, according to independent sources at PNP headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Like Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, deputy chief for administration and the PNP's second in command, Hizon is a member of Philippine Military Academy Class of 1973.

The other front-runner is Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., deputy chief for operations and the third highest police official, who graduated from the PMA in 1974.

At least three ranking PNP officials claimed in separate interviews with the Inquirer that Hizon "is the one being pushed" by Lomibao as his successor when he retires on July 5.

"He's the chief PNP's bet," one of them said.

All the officers spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of the issue.

DARK HORSE/A4



**WELL WORTH THE WAIT:** President Arroyo didn't mind waiting for Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi until after Italy edged out Australia for the day's soccer spectacle. When they finally sat down for their one-on-one meeting, the euphoric PM gave in to most of Ms Arroyo's requests to benefit the OFWs in Italy. Here, Prodi escorts Ms Arroyo upon her arrival at the Palazzo Chigi in Rome.

MAICANING PHOTO

By Christian V. Esguerra, Armand Nocom and Christine O. Avendaño

THE PAT ON THE BACK and the words of encouragement Pope Benedict XVI gave President Macapagal-Arroyo at the Vatican on Monday drew opposing interpretations from Ms Arroyo's supporters and critics.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz advised the President and her allies not to read anything beyond Benedict's "well done" statement.

Cruz said it was merely a reaction to the country's abolition of the death penalty law, a measure that the Catholic Church was vehemently against.

"But it's incongruent for the Holy Father to say she's doing a good job, what with all the scandals happening left and right, graft and corruption, the termination of lives even of religious personalities," he said.

Buoyed by the commendation from the Pontiff, Ms Arroyo vowed to implement her policies and programs despite opposition to some of them.

"I will not be deterred and I will continue with the path," the President said after her meeting with the Pope, who she said was "supportive" of her pro-poor policies.

She was replying to a question about her "discernment" following the 20-minute meeting.

Ms Arroyo earlier said that she had told the Pope about her reform initiatives and efforts to

POPE/A17

## Oliver strikes again; Tito files case, too

By Philip C. Tubeza

OLIVER LOZANO STRIKES AGAIN.

The 66-year-old lawyer sent a notice yesterday to the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia that he was reviving the impeachment complaint he had filed last year against President Macapagal-Arroyo which was killed for lack

of substance.

The notice was received at 7:20 a.m., about 70 minutes before former Vice President Teofisto Guingona filed his own case against Ms Arroyo. His son, Rep. Teofisto Guingona III, promptly endorsed it, a requirement for official cognizance.

On Monday, anti-Arroyo forces

brought a new case in the House of Representatives seeking to oust Ms Arroyo for alleged culpable violation of the Constitution, graft and corruption and abuse of authority in connection with claims she rigged the 2004 election.

They anti-Arroyo group had gone on an overnight prayer vigil at the Batasan complex just to

make sure they were first off the block with their complaint.

The Constitution calls on Congress to consider only one impeachment case a year against the President, practically turning the initiative into a horse race.

Because the opposition obviously wasn't certain when the

OLIVER/A16

## 'Talong,' banana in sex ed classes

By Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa

ONE TEXTBOOK REQUIRES Grade 5 pupils at an elementary school in Pampanga to bring condoms along with an eggplant (talong), cucumber or banana.

The lesson is reproductive health and the children are to be taught how to use the contraceptive device properly with either fruit or vegetables resembling the male sex organ.

Another module asks female freshmen in high school what to

do about an adulterous husband.

One choice listed is "patayin ang asawa habang natutulog" (kill him while he's sleeping).

Still another lesson defines safe sex as protected sex, meaning with the use of contraceptives. Sex is "safer" when it's be-

tween two men using condoms. For sure, no one will get pregnant even if the rubber breaks.

So what's wrong with the controversial sex education modules of the Department of Education?

"Even the most liberal person

TALONG/A5

## Docs trained to spot, report torture cases

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEXT TIME A DOCTOR PRIES into the cause of your bruises or wounds, don't be surprised.

The country's medical practitioners are being trained by human rights advocates to dig deeper into the condition of their patients, some of whom could be victims of torture who are unwilling to report what they had been through.

The Medical Action Group (MAG), composed of health professionals advocating human rights, has conducted workshops among municipal and city health officers, as well as doctors serving in detention centers all over the country, as part of its campaign to encourage the reporting of torture.

"Our objective is to involve them ... We want to deepen their consciousness so they can document and report torture cases to the Commission on Human Rights or to NGOs (nongovernment organizations)," MAG program coordinator Amy Abcede said in a forum.

The role of doctors and health professionals was highlighted by the United Nations as the world celebrated International Day in



**DRAMATIZING torture** by the United Torture Coalition.

RAFFY LERMA

Support of Victims of Torture on June 26.

The forum, called "Biktima ng Tortura, Baka Ikaing na Ang Susunod (A Victim of Torture, You Might be the Next)," gathered representatives from Amnesty International, the United Against

DOCS TRAINED/A15

## Subic bartender: Lessons on cocktails



By Yolt Contreras and Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR TWO HOURS YESTERDAY, THE SUBIC RAPE trial sounded like a crash course in cocktail mixing.

Lawyers for complainant "Nicole" made a bartender state the "alcohol content" of the various drinks she had taken at the Neptune Club, to bolster their contention that she was too drunk to have agreed to sex with one of the four accused US Marines.

But after prosecutors pointed out how strong Nicole's drinks were, defense lawyers—who contend she was sober enough to have consented to sex—took note of "how much ice" usually went into each glass.

Roger Sanidad, 25, brought with him to the stand sample glasses, jiggers, a pitcher and a Neptune menu to demonstrate how concoctions like Vodka Sprite, B52, Singapore Sling, Long Island Iced Tea and Bullfrog were prepared and served at his bar.

These were the drinks that Nicole's stepfather, An-

16th WITNESS: Bartending made easy. STEPH BRUNO



# Budget compromise proposed

By TJ Burgonio

RETAIN PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S spending authority at P1.053 trillion but realign the P64 billion in cuts the Senate made in the proposed national budget to education, health, agriculture, infrastructure and technology.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday offered this compromise in a last-ditch effort to break the budget impasse at the bicameral conference committee, warning that unless the 2006 national budget was passed, the 2005 budget would be reenacted again next year.

"I would like to see a compromise between these three institutions: The House, Senate and Malacañang," Recto said in a briefing.

"I don't mind giving the President the same spending authority she requested from Congress, which is roughly P1.1 trillion, including the unprogrammed funds," he said.

The chair of the committee on ways and means said he was also open to the idea of restoring the P26.7 billion in programmed funds and P37.3 billion in unprogrammed funds the Senate had slashed from the budget.

But the money, amounting to P64 billion, should be realigned to improve services in the education, health and agriculture sectors, and to build more roads and devise more technologies, he said.

"I would realign the P64 billion for other purposes and make it more transparent and more accountable."

Unprogrammed funds can only be realized when revenues exceed targets.

"Assuming you have a reenacted budget for 2006, then the budget for 2007 will be the one reenacted in 2006, which was the P907.56-billion 2005 budget," he said. "There's practically no time to pass 2007 budget in view of the impeachment and Cha-cha (Charter change) talks."

"I propose that we pass the 2006 budget. I don't mind the higher spending authority because whatever we pass this year will be reenacted for 2007."

The President is expected to present the 2007 budget on July 24 during her State of the Nation Address before Congress.

Bicameral talks bogged down early this month over the P64 billion slashed by the Senate from the budget, with the House insisting all the cuts should be restored and Malacañang warning that it would veto any cuts.

Congress adjourned its second regular session on July 8 without enacting the budget.

Hope, meanwhile, was dimming the suspended bicameral conference would be restarted before July 24, when Congress opens its third regular session.

## Palace vows protection for business

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS ASSURED BUSINESSMEN the military and police were up to the task of protecting them, their employees and businesses from attacks by communist rebels.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita gave the assurance as he reiterated the government's order to businessmen to stop paying revolutionary taxes to the communist New People's Army.

"They (businessmen) can always coordinate with the local commanders and ask for some security. The military and police can provide both overt and covert (security)," Ermita said in an interview.

While he welcomed the businessmen's skepticism the authorities could protect them from the NPA, Ermita said "the government should put an end to the revolutionary taxes and we have to start somewhere."

Ermita said the communist insurgency was one of the biggest stumbling blocks to the Philippines making the huge leap toward higher economic growth.

"Our economic stability is dependent on our political environment. The instability is highlighted by the continued leftist threat. With the havoc caused by the NPA, both local and foreign investors are afraid to bring in investments, especially in the provinces. If they cannot set up factories, there will be no jobs and our economy will suffer. It's about time we put an end to this problem," Ermita said.

He said the President's goal of wiping out the communist insurgency within her term was doable.

"If we can address the center of activity of the insurgency by accounting for their commanders during the next two to three years, then we shall have accomplished something," Ermita said.

He noted that the P1 billion the President

poured into the fight against the insurgency would be a big boost not only in terms of beefing up the military and police arsenal but also in terms of higher troop morale.

"The P1 billion may not be much but it is something that is well appreciated by our men. They will become more emboldened knowing that they are fighting with sufficient logistical support, from their uniforms to their weapons," Ermita said.

Ermita said the purchase of more boats and helicopters would bolster the military's pursuit of rebels even in the hinterlands.

"It is a big deal for soldiers to know that they have helicopters and ships that could pluck them out in 10 to 15 minutes when they are in trouble. They become more confident and brave," he said.

With superior equipment, Ermita said the skirmishes between the military and the rebels would be shorter and would mean less chance of civilians getting caught in the crossfire.

## But is all-out war fair to soldiers?

By Nikko Dizon and Luige A. del Puerto

IS THE ALL-OUT WAR AGAINST THE COMMUNIST insurgency fair to the police and soldiers?

Former President Fidel V. Ramos posed the question yesterday to the Arroyo administration which had vowed to wipe out the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, "in two years."

"The ultimate question is, is this order—ultimatum—fair or unfair to the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and the PNP (Philippine National Police) which are already undermanned, overstretched and underpaid," said Ramos at a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport shortly before he left for an Asean Eminent Persons Group meeting in Singapore.

"What are the chances of success? What are the costs in terms of collateral damage?" he said.

Ramos surmised the P1 billion President Macapagal-Arroyo had set aside to fund the war against the CPP and the NPA "may not

even be enough for operations just in northern Luzon or southern Luzon, which are major regions, and even Mindanao itself."

Ramos said the "ultimatum" to wipe out the insurgency should also be given to national and local officials.

He said the military and police phase of the war against the insurgency should be combined with its socioeconomic and political aspects.

The police could only agree with him.

While an overwhelming military force could "wallop the insurgents" in two years, the root causes of the insurgency—such as poverty, injustice and bad governance—must be addressed by the government, police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said yesterday.

The people must also see that changes that usher in development can be achieved within the system using constitutional processes such as elections, Pagdilao said, otherwise the people would remain vulnerable to recruitment by the rebels and the rebellion will simply fester.

This was the approach being adopted by

the administration to break the spine of the communist insurgency, Pagdilao said at the weekly news briefing at Camp Crame yesterday.

The President, he said, had set aside some P300 million to aid in the economic development of the countryside.

"It is correct that arms alone is not a complete package to quell an insurgency. We have a national strategy that has been adopted that is holistic in (its) approach," he said.

"So if you look at the totality of this approach, it does not mean the PNP or Armed Forces are the only ones engaging the enemy," he said.

"Two years is long enough to wallop an armed group, but you know an insurgency (has many) dimensions and we have to address them," he said.

"If by using the constitutional framework one can change not only persons but also the way they carry out their administration or governance then... people do not have to be drawn to an insurgency or rebellion," he said.

## 'Same offense, same case'

THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice scored a point against six militant lawmakers and 42 other individuals tagged in a Leftist-Rightist conspiracy to topple the administration after a Makati court ordered the consolidation of the two separate cases against them.

Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 57 Judge Reynato Quilala ordered the consolidation of the rebellion case against party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and 40 others with the case against Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and rebel soldier 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

Quilala, who handled the case against the Batasan 5 and their 41 co-accused, directed the transfer of the case's records to the sala of Makati RTC Branch 146 Judge Encarnacion Jaja Moya, to whose sala the case against Beltran and San Juan was raffled.

The case against Beltran and San Juan, a junior Army officer tagged as a leader of the July 27, 2003, Oakwood mutiny in Makati City, theorized a conspiracy between rebel soldiers and communist rebels to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo. Tarra V. Quismundo

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## UK diplomat in hot water over Pinay lover's visa

LONDON—A MARRIED BRITISH diplomat pretended his Filipino girlfriend was a VIP so he could "fast-track" her visa and set up a secret home with her in England, a court in London heard Monday.

No sooner had Shared Ladva completed his posting in Manila

and returned to Britain than he regularly lived with his mistress during the week before returning to his wife and family for the weekends.

Ladva's lover was allegedly one of dozens the 45-year-old helped get into Britain despite

the "blatantly" false documents used in their applications, the court was told.

Southwark Crown Court in south London was told that the embassy official's dishonesty finally came to light when two of his colleagues blew the whistle

on him.

They had earlier raised concerns with him about irregularities they had spotted in the paperwork, but stayed quiet after he overruled them.

Once he had left the Philippines, however, they mentioned

their fears again, this time to other senior staff.

Ladva, from Warminster in Wiltshire, in the west of England, denies two counts of misconduct in a public office between Jan. 1 and Nov. 30, 2002. The trial continues.

AFP



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2.5 hp	39,975	43,183	3,208	8%



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# 'Talong,' banana, condom in sex education classes

From page A1

would fume over the utter lack of values and morality in the lessons," Filipina Rañada, a public schoolteacher and researcher of Prolife Philippines, told the Inquirer.

## Interferes in child development

Quoting child development expert Dr. Melvin Anchell, Rañada cautioned against "sexual interference" in a child's development.

"At this stage of a child's development, his redirected sexual energy is used for the development of compassion, which is essential for the control of his cruelty impulses as a human being," she said.

"A child whose compassionate feelings are destroyed by sexual interference at this stage becomes devoid of this emotion when he reaches early adult life."

Rañada noted that even the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Family cautioned against similar interference during a child's "age of innocence" (from about 5 years until puberty).

"So as not to disturb this important natural phase of growth, parents will recognize that prudent formation in chaste love... should be indirect, in preparation for puberty, when direct information will be necessary," said the council's "The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality, Guidelines for Education within the Family."

## Bases of opposition

Rañada sought to put in perspective the bases of the Episcopal Commission on Family and Life and Human Life International's opposition to the modules.

The DepEd yesterday said it was not yet using the lesson guides on adolescent reproductive health for public high schools.

Fe Hidalgo, DepEd officer in charge, said the lesson guides were only being pilot-tested in two public schools. They will have to be evaluated first, based on the pilot stage, and then reviewed or revised.

In fact, Hidalgo said the department decided to pull out the lesson guides from the Parañaque High School and the Pateros National High School when the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines objected to the material.

"The said modules were in a pilot stage when issues were raised against them. And as part of the evaluative process, we must give due attention to these concerns. The modules have not been used in public schools and we have stopped the pilot testing in two schools," said Hidalgo.

## Dialogue

She said the DepEd would hold a dialogue with concerned groups on the matter.

Rañada said the new set of modules was an offshoot of the materials first introduced in the school system in 1993. The modules were "upgraded and enhanced" in 1983, 1993 and 1996.

Other modules include "AIDS Education," which advocates safe sex (condom use) and safer sex (homosexual union), and the Revised Homeroom Guidance Program (RHGP), which promotes the "cult of selfishness," she said.

Rañada, a holder of a master's degree in special education who was tapped to review the modules in 1996, said the materials were promoting "secular sex education."

"It tackles the conditioning of attitudes, behavior and thinking of young people toward a new culture, a new morality," she said.

This should supposedly explain a number of questionable lessons being offered to schoolchildren, she said.

The Enhanced Population Education Module (1996 Edition) for kindergarten appeared to have ignored the council's message.

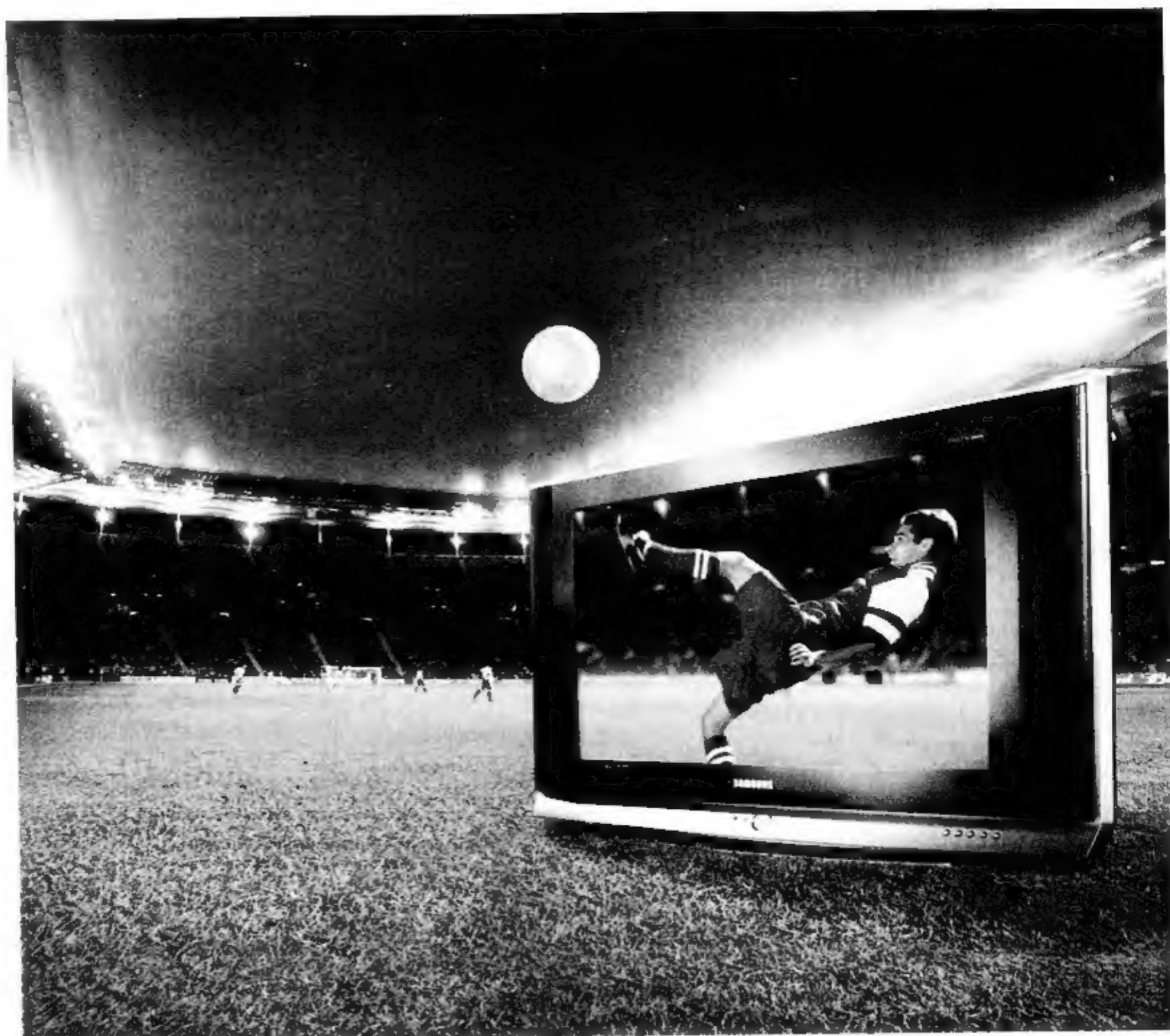
## Games

It teaches children new versions of a game ("Simon says... touch your genitals") and a song ("This is the way I wash my genitals"), complete with demonstrations, Rañada said.

One book on values education for 4th year high school students says "there's no such thing as too much sex" because one would stop when she's had "enough," the Prolife Philippines researcher said.

She said the same book lists factors that lead to bleeding during a woman's first intercourse: How relaxed she is, how gentle her partner is, how much time and privacy the couple have, and how rigid the hymen is (if it is present at all).

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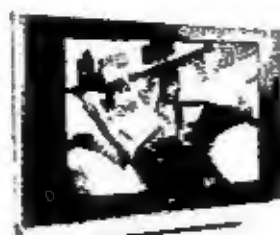
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## THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, June 28, 2006  
12th Week in Ordinary Time  
Irenaeus

1st Reading: 2 K 22:8-13, 23:1-3  
Gospel: Matthew 7:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of false prophets: they come to you in sheep's clothing but inside they are wild wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Do you ever pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?"

A good tree always produces good fruit, a rotten tree produces bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit and a rotten tree cannot bear good fruit. Any tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire. So you will know them by their fruit."

### Commentary

The high priest and the king read the contents of the book of the law that was found in the temple so that all the people might listen and obey and the covenant may be renewed (again).

Again and again, we begin. We must look to our lives, our relationships, our churches and communities, our ways in the world, and see what fruit we are bearing for others: thorns, prickly plants, decayed trees, rotten fruit? Or grapes, figs, good fruit and sound trees: life, that nourishes and sustains and brings joy? This is Ordinary Time and we have need of lots of time to learn the ways of the Lord.

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# Dark horse emerges in race for new PNP chief



**DIRECTOR SERVANDO HIZON:** I supported Cory for Edsa I but not anymore since she asked GMA to resign, he tells the INQUIRER. Is this why he's reported to be Lomibao's (right) "pet"? PDI PHOTO

From page A1

Both Lomibao and Hizon are widowers.

The INQUIRER source, the head of a major unit, said Hizon's name was floated as a likely contender after President Macapagal-Arroyo came to his wife's wake two weeks ago.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Lomibao for comment through his cell phone, but the calls went unanswered. Lomibao has said his mind "is set to retire on July 5" and that he had begun packing his things at the White House, his official residence at Crame the past year and four months.

## Constant companion

One officer said Hizon, one of three police officials who almost always accompanied Lomibao in his out-of-town sorties, enjoyed the confidence of the PNP chief.

He claimed that Lomibao was set to recommend to President Macapagal-Arroyo only one name—Hizon's—as his successor.

"But barring any unforeseen circumstances, the second in command (Calderon) takes over. It is, however, the prerogative of the President to choose any senior or junior [officer as the police chief]," he said.

Asked to comment last night, Calderon and Hizon also acknowledged the presidential prerogative.

"The choice of PNP chief is the sole discretion of the President, being a position that requires... [her] utmost trust and confidence," Hizon said.

"I will support whoever will be the next chief—like a good soldier," he added.

Razon declined to give any statement on the matter.

## Less jockeying

Traditionally, the position of PNP chief goes to the most senior



**WHO WILL THE PRESIDENT BLESS?** Another contender is someone like PNP Deputy Director General for Administration Oscar Calderon, who's standing (literally) behind her. PDI PHOTO

and competent official, usually equal in rank to a two-star or three-star general in the military and preferably one who still had more than a year to serve before retiring.

Unlike last year, when Ms Arroyo picked Lomibao to take over the PNP leadership following the retirement of Director General Lucas Managuelod, there appeared to be less aggressive jockeying for the position this time, even none at all.

"We know it has already been decided upon," one of the sources said of the issue of succession. "The President is in Europe, how do you lobby?"

Ms Arroyo is currently on a weeklong visit to Italy and Spain.

## Seniority in PMA

But another source said Ms Arroyo still had to make up her mind, even on the issue of the possible extension of Lomibao's term.



**DEPUTY Director General Avelino Razon, PNP's third in command** PDI PHOTO

In the PNP, the first source stressed, "seniority is very important to us." By this, he meant the way it was practiced in the PMA, where the majority of the present crop of police officers graduated

from.

An officer from an older batch usually has more chances of getting a higher post than one from a younger batch in the academy. But still, a few outstanding officers have made it past their seniors in rank and position.

Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao, PNP spokesperson, said Camp Crame had begun preparations for Lomibao's retirement and turnover of command. But, of course, the ceremonies will be canceled if Lomibao's term is extended, he said.

Hizon served in Sulu and Davao del Sur in the early part of his career. He was police director of Basilan, Zamboanga del Sur and Rizal in the 1990s.

During the last three years, he has served as chief of the Special Action Force, the Zamboanga police regional office, and the directorates for logistics and comptrollership.

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## 2 MILF commanders eyed in bomb attack on governor

By Luigi A. del Puerto

POLICE YESTERDAY WERE LOOKING into the possible involvement of two Moro Islamic Liberation Front commanders in the failed attempt on the life of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan last week.

Police made the disclosure after bomb experts established that the bomb that exploded as the governor's convoy passed through Shariff Aguak town in Maguindanao had strong similarities to the explosive that killed his son three years ago.

Officials identified the suspects in the 2003 bombing as Jamil Ombra and Sajid Pakiladato. Ombra was said to be a division commander of the MILF's 105th Base Command and Pakiladato a brigade commander.

That attack killed Saudi Ampatuan Sr., the mayor of Datu Piang town and one of the governor's sons.

Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao in a statement said cases were filed against Ombra and Pakiladato for the earlier attack and the courts had issued warrants for their arrest.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao ordered the police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, of which Maguindanao is a part, to serve the arrest warrants on the two MILF commanders.

Ampatuan was unhurt in the explosion that killed seven people, including some of his relatives, and wounded several others on Friday morning.

The governor was in the lead car of the convoy when the bomb that had been placed in a multicab parked on the side of the road

exploded as he passed by. The blast wrecked the vehicle immediately behind the governor's.

It was the fourth attempt on Ampatuan's life.

The attackers had fashioned an explosive device out of five 81-mm mortar shells but only three of the shells detonated, according to Philippine Bomb Data Center technicians.

The experts also found traces of plastic C-4 explosives at the site of the explosion. They believed it was used to boost the bomb's explosive power.

"PBDC technicians established a similarity in the bomb signature with that of the 2003 explosion... (meaning) the way it was constructed and the... materials used," said Pagdilao.

"This is where this investigation is leading to now," he said.

Police have also identified the owner of the vehicle in which the bomb was placed and were trying to locate him at press time.

They were also working on an artist's sketch of the people last seen driving the multicab.

"The cab was seen moving from one place to another before the incident," Pagdilao said, adding the police believe the target was definitely the governor.

But investigators have not discounted terrorism as an angle, he said.

Police intelligence back in April had revealed the presence of two Indonesian bomb instructors in the area.

"The Indonesian bomb experts (were) conducting training in that area. Whether or not this group (was) responsible is a matter of investigation by the PNP," Pagdilao said.

## Loren to SC: Release partial result of recount

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER SEN. Loren Legarda yesterday urged the Supreme Court to release even a partial result of the recount of votes in Cebu and the retabulation of election returns in Lanao del Sur after she agreed to the proposal of Vice President Noli de Castro's lawyer to suspend the recount proceedings in Pampanga.

Through her lawyer, Sixto Brilantes, Legarda asked the high court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, to render a "partial determination" of the results of the election in Cebu and Lanao del Sur. The recount of votes in Cebu was already 99 percent complete, she said.

Legarda expressed confidence that she would be able to prove her allegations

of massive fraud committed against her during the 2004 vice presidential election.

Legarda clarified that she did not withdraw her protest when she agreed to the motion of De Castro's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, to forego the retabulation of the election returns from six towns of Lanao del Sur, which had gone missing from the custody of Congress.

She stressed that the ERs thus far retabulated in Lanao del Sur, as well as the ballots examined in Cebu, had already provided "more than ample proof" of poll fraud against her and her presidential running mate, the late Fernando Poe Jr.

According to Legarda, a direct examination of the ERs from the four Lanao del Sur towns, particularly in Taraka and Balindong, as well as

a video of how the ER switching was allegedly conducted right inside the premises of the House of Representatives, were "empirical pieces of evidence" of cheating.

"Being crude fakes, the ERs from Congress failed to stand scrutiny vis-à-vis the returns belonging to the Commission on Election (Comelec), the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfre) and those provided the dominant political parties," she said.



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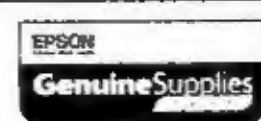
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# Cops fail to stop marchers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

RIOT TROOPS YESTERDAY BOMBarded around 800 militants with water cannons when they tried to march on Malacañang to denounce the government's all-out war on insurgents.

But they did get a little closer than before to the historic Mendiola (Don Chino Roces) Bridge leading to the Palace.

The protesters from Bayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Anakpawis, Gabriela and Kilusang Magbubukid ng Philipinas had first assembled near the University of Sto. Tomas.

Blocked at E Noval Street, they took a detour to Mendiola, passing through Lacson, Lepanto and Bustillos streets, where police gave them a dousing.

## 'Zero tolerance'

Pushing on, the protesters got as far as the corner of Legarda and Gastambide, where policemen with nightsticks finally stopped them.

"We were able to make it this far because Ms Arroyo is in the Vatican City boasting about the abolition of the death penalty, which displays nothing but hypocrisy and decep-



STOP all political killings, militants cry out during the rally near Malacañang, but not quite Mendiola. Their protest and demands are watered down by anti-riot cops.

tion," Bayan chair Carol Araullo said in an interview.

"The (police) probably did not

want the international community to think that this government has zero-tolerance for protesters."

# SBMA exec denies telling 'Nicole' to accept money

By Tonette Orejas  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A SUBIC BAY Metropolitan Authority official yesterday denied telling rape complainant "Nicole" to accept money and settle out of court the rape case she had filed against four American servicemen.

SBMA consultant Ben Natividad called the allegation "absolutely unfair."

Nicole's stepsister Anna Liza Franco told a Makati court on Monday that a man named Ben Natividad approached them on Nov. 2 and told them to "just accept payment."

No such allegation cropped up during the preliminary investigation, according to Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni.

Natividad said that, at the time, he was senior executive assistant to SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga and attended the investigation on the instruction of his boss.

He said several people, including US servicemen, were also around.

"Anyone in the crowd could have made such a remark. To ascribe the statement to

me, when I was merely tasked to provide the victim with all the necessary assistance, is absolutely unfair," Natividad said in a statement.

## Heard no one

"People came in and out of the room. I heard no one tell her that," he said.

Natividad said his task at the time was to provide legal and medical assistance, which included finding the complainant a place for her privacy.

He said Nicole and her family seemed to have forgotten the "good deeds" the SBMA had tried to extend to them.

## Who should take charge?

An INQUIRER source among top SBMA officials has said that in the two days following the incident, three SBMA camps wrangled over who should be on top of the situation.

Salonga's camp, through Natividad, was the first to respond. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy administrator for operations, then sent a separate legal team, while SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza took custody of the woman until a social welfare department team arrived.

# Subic bartender: Lessons on cocktails

From page A1

na Liza Franco, had told the court they had ordered on the night of Nov. 1 last year, when the alleged rape took place in a van at the Subic Bay Freepoint.

An earlier witness, US Navy Petty Officer Christopher Mills, said Nicole took food to five glasses of those drinks. Mills had described himself as a family friend who had invited the Zamboanga City-based sisters to join him on a vacation in Subic.

On direct examination by private prosecutor Honorato Aquino, Sanidad said he was one of the three bartenders on duty on the night in question.

On cross-examination, Sanidad said he never got to meet Nicole at the crowded bar and could not tell if he was the one

who actually prepared her drinks.

Sanidad's testimony, which visibly amused the gallery, turned out to be a virtual lesson on how the five drinks are mixed and served. After each mention of the ingredients and their "ratio," Aquino asked him to give the alcohol content.

Vodka Sprite is "one shot vodka (40-percent alcohol) and three shots Sprite." One shot corresponds to a 25-ml jigger, Sanidad said.

Long Island Iced Tea, meanwhile, is 1/3 shot each of vodka, gin, tequila, white rum and an orange-flavored liqueur called Triple Sec, three shots of Coke and 1/2 shot of lemon juice.

## Several Bullfrogs

A Bullfrog is one shot each of vodka, gin and lime juice and two shots each of

pineapple juice and Sprite, according to the 16th witness for the prosecution.

Multiple orders of Bullfrog, if requested, can be served in a pitcher which can contain up to six glasses, he said.

In her testimony on Friday, Franco said Nicole had drunk "half a pitcher" of Bullfrog "straight up" shortly before meeting one of the accused, Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith, on the dance floor.

On cross-examination, defense counsel Jose Justiniano and Enrico Uyehara made Sanidad state how many ice cubes usually went into each glass.

## Relevance of the ice

The witness said that in the case of Vodka Sprite and Bullfrog, the concoctions usually filled up two-thirds of an 8- or 10-oz glass before ice was added.

Justiniano even produced a tape measure so that the witness could give his answers in inches.

Prosecutors questioned the relevance of bringing up the amount of ice, but Makati City Judge Benjamin Pozon upheld the defense panel's tack.

"The bigger the ice, the lesser the effect," he said, smiling.

But yesterday's session was not all about mixing drinks.

Recalled to the witness stand, Nicole's stepsister again came under intense grilling by defense lawyers, who tried to show that Nicole was coherent before the alleged rape occurred.

Franco appeared to keep her composure, rebuffing the defense lawyers and sticking to her earlier testimony that she saw "Nicole" heavily drunk and staggering at the Neptune Club mo-

ments before she lost sight of her.

The prosecution is banking on testimony that Nicole was dead drunk to prove that she could not have agreed to have sex with Smith, contrary to his claim.

## How many drinks?

Nicole had alleged that Smith raped her in the back of a cruising Starex van as his comrades—Lance Corporals Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpenter—cheered him on.

Francisco Rodrigo, Carpenter's counsel, again asked Franco about the drinks she and her sister consumed at Neptune Club.

He asked Franco whether at any point she had told her sister that they should return to their hotel as they had already consumed several drinks and were beginning to feel dizzy.

"Did you not tell [Nicole] that you were dizzy? Did it not occur to you to ask [Nicole] to go back to the hotel?" Rodrigo asked.

## Debate heats up

Franco said no, pointing out that she felt at ease with Mills around, referring to the family friend.

It was Mills and another serviceman, Carlos Ocasio, who had invited Franco, Nicole and their 12-year-old sister to travel to Olongapo City from Zamboanga for a vacation.

The courtroom heated up when Rodrigo asked Franco to describe how Nicole consumed the last drink she had that night—a half-pitcher of Bullfrog. Franco had said the pitcher was ordered by Mills' friend, an American serviceman identified only as Garcia.

A debate ensued over where the pitcher—which was on another table—was, with Rodrigo trying to show that Nicole "was not that drunk" to be able to walk to where it was.

Nicole's lawyer Evalyn Ursua countered by saying that Nicole was drunk that night.

Franco is expected to return to the stand at the next hearing on Thursday.

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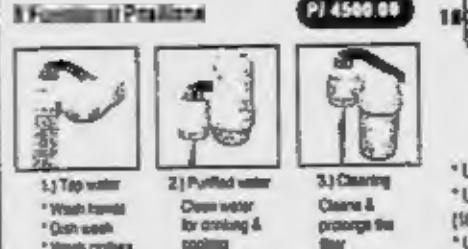
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# ERRATUM

In the June 28, 2006 issue of Philippine Daily Inquirer, the information on the NEO Endura 320SL advertisement was erroneous. It contains the following incorrect text:

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# Corrections

IN THE JUNE 15 ISSUE, an INQUIRER monitor on Page B1 of the Business section misstated the country with the second highest number of nationals who visited the Philippines from January to April this year. South Korea—not Korea—earned that distinction. Thus, instead of having both the flags of North Korea and South Korea on the graph, it should have contained the South Korean flag alone.

# IN THE JUNE 23 ISSUE

a caption in Maurice Arcache's column—"Without Barring an Eye-lash"—on Page F2 of the Lifestyle section misstated the name of the person beside former President Corazon Aquino. The person beside Aquino was Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ—not Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. The archbishop was mentioned in the column, but there was no photo of him on the page.

IN THE JUNE 25 ISSUE, a caption on Page A3-1 of the Entertainment section misstated that GMA 7 reporter Jay Taruc had accepted a posthumous award on behalf of his father Joe during rites marking the Rotary Club of Manila's 2005 Journalism Awards. Jose "Joe" Taruc, the recipient of the organization's Hall of Fame Award, is still alive.

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Magsaysay Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: [daydesk@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:daydesk@inquirer.com.ph). Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: [readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph) or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.



# We can't meet SC deadline—Ombudsman

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN HAS told the Supreme Court it might not meet the June 30 deadline set by the high court to not on the Mega Pacific election modernization deal as it needs to investigate the case further.

In an urgent manifestation to the SC, the Ombudsman's Office of Legal Affairs said Ombudsman Mercedes Gutierrez had found "sufficient grounds for the conduct of further investigation" to determine any criminal liability on the part of the Commis-

sion on Elections officials which concluded the deal with Mega Pacific consortium in April 2003.

The high tribunal nullified in January 2004 the P1.3-billion contract for Mega Pacific to supply the Comelec with counting

machines because of violations of the bidding rules.

On May 3, it directed the Office of the Ombudsman "under pain of contempt" to report by June 30 its final determination on the case.

Nelson R Flores

## English a la Behn Cervantes taught in Baguio

BAGUIO CITY—Three Baguio universities are testing a three-unit English appreciation course designed by theater artist Behn Cervantes, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said here on Monday.

Magdalena Jasmin, CHED Cordillera director, said Cervantes' English Language Immersion Zone (ELIZ) is essentially a speech class that uses drama to engage the attention of students.

It requires students' absolute concentration when plays or essays are performed or discussed for five hours in a Saturday or Sunday

"They are required to interact by answering questions during or right after a particular English language piece is explored by Cervantes himself or by his teaching assistants," Jasmin said.

Cervantes' language courses at the University of Baguio, the University of the Cordilleras and the Saint Louis University will run throughout the semester.

Jasmin introduced the experimental course as a potential English training alternative to the export industry players of the Cordillera and the Ilocos, during a conference here on the national export plan.

She said Cervantes and the Department of Labor and Employment approached CHED about the course module in May, after Cervantes realized that a similar one-month crash course he was implementing here for potential employees of call centers was not enough to raise English language aptitude.

Cervantes had been a key training adviser since 2005 of the Traces project. Vincent Cabrera, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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# AFP officers may face court martial for coup plot

By Dona Pazzibugan

A COURT MARTIAL, OR SOME other form of disciplinary action, awaits military officers implicated in a failed coup plot last Feb. 24 which led to a declaration of a week-long state of emergency.

A fact-finding board investigating the failed plot will be announcing its report before Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga retires on July 21, according to a military official privy to the investigation.

"The report will definitely include recommendations for disciplinary actions," either through a general court martial or civilian court, or before the Separation and Efficiency Board, said the official who asked not to be named.

The board, headed by Armed Forces Inspector General Rear Admiral Rufino Lopez, began its hearings in April.

The investigation has focused on the activities last February of least 28 Army and Marine officers.

The government has purged the military brass and filed charges of rebellion and attempted coup d'etat against a number of opposition political figures in February after accusing the officers and politicians of attempting to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The highest ranking officer to be purged was Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, who was sacked from his post as commander of the elite Scout Rangers.

The fact-finding board reviewed

the findings of an earlier investigation by the Army Inspector General Brig. Gen. Frederick Bococho which recommended the trial of Lim and 27 officers and men before a military court.

The board also investigated Col. Ariel Querubin who led the Feb. 26 stand-off at the Marine headquarters to protest the relief of the Marine Commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, who was linked to the Feb. 24 plot.

Lim and Querubin are restricted to quarters in Fort Bonifacio and Camp Aguinaldo.

The two allegedly planned to lead a contingent of Scout Rangers and Marines to join anti-government rallies at EDSA and withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

## Negros peasant leader shot dead

BACOLOD CITY—A PEASANT LEADER WAS shot dead by two unidentified gunmen in Sagay City about 83 kilometers north of here, on Monday night.

Wilfredo Cornea, 49 and a father of three, suffered gunshot wounds in the head and neck, police said.

Cornea was vice president of the Mulawin-Lanatan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (Mularba), a peasant group affiliated with the Task Force Mapalad in Negros Occidental province.

He was the ninth victim of an agrarian-related killing in the province and the third this year, according to Lanie Factor, TFM campaign advocacy officer.

Rico Adeva was killed in April and Mario Domingo in May, said Factor.

Cornea was one of 106 beneficiaries of the 212-hectare Haciendas Mulawin and Lanatan, formerly known as Hacienda Luisita here.

Aquiles Lopez, the owner of the property, has been opposed to his land coming under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program in 2000, said Factor.

Police investigators said Cornea was in his backyard at Hacienda Mulawin at about 9 p.m. on Sunday when he was shot by two masked men.

His wife, Nenita, rushed out when she heard two gunshots. She saw the two gunmen fleeing the scene.

Factor said other witnesses had seen the two gunmen escaping in the direction of the guard-house tower near the hacienda compound.

A witness, whose identity was withheld for security reasons, said she encountered the fleeing suspects, and claimed that one was armed with a .45 caliber pistol. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

## Luisita files own petition

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE HACIENDA LUISITA INC. (HLI) HAS submitted to the government a petition signed by farm workers claiming to be beneficiaries of the Luisita stock scheme to retain the scheme in the hacienda owned by the family of former president Corason Aquino.

The petition, written in Filipino, had 167 signatures from former barangays officials and "big family leaders" in all ten barangays comprising Hacienda Luisita.

The petition, received by the Department of Agrarian Reform on June 7, completely contradicted the complaint lodged by more than 3,000 farmers in 2003 that eventually led to the revocation of the stock distribution option (SDO) agreement in Luisita last year.

The petitioners said they have received all the benefits of employees under the HLI, including salaries, loans, medical insurance, and so much more than what is required under the law.

DAR legal counsel Delfin Samson furnished the members of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA) a copy of the petition during a dialogue yesterday.

AMBALA counsel Jobert Pahilga said the group would file a formal comment and submit affidavits from the real farm workers attesting that the signatories in the petition were not employed by HLI.

"The signatories are not legitimate farm workers. We will ask (Undersecretary Narciso) Nieto to verify the signatures," Pahilga said.

The Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order against the DAR's revocation of the SDO and distribution of the 4,915-ha hacienda two weeks ago.

The DAR, which was set to give the first 1,000 has. of the sugar land in time for the 18th anniversary of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program this month, is appealing the decision.



### SHOOTING GALLERY

A member of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) sets up the targets in a fire drill of gun advocacy in Francisco del Monte in Quezon City. It is not vigilantism in the wake of the repeal of the death penalty law, but awareness that they are ready to defend themselves and their families against criminals.

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# SC sanctions 5 erring judges

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS PENALIZED five Baguio City judges, dismissing one for immorality for siring children with a woman not his wife, fining three others for playing the card game pusa, a variation of poker, in the court premises, and fining a fifth for accepting favors from a defendant in a civil case he was hearing.

Two of the judges chastised for gambling were also fined for disobeying a SC circular against allowing interpreters to take part in ex-parte hearings (without the presence of the other party in a dispute), and for engaging in a business deal that could give rise to a conflict-of-interest situation.

Judge Clarence Villanueva was dismissed from the service for siring two children with another woman despite being married. The SC also forfeited his retirement benefits and barred his future appointment to any public office.

The complaint against Villanueva was filed by a colleague, Judge Ruben Ayson. The SC said he was found to have fathered two children by Enry Tumaneng, identified in Ayson's complaint as Villanueva's "mistress."

Villanueva denied knowing Tumaneng or being the father of her two children.

But the high court said Villanueva failed to substantiate his defense.

"The Code of Judicial Ethics mandates that the conduct of a judge must be free of a whiff of impropriety not only with respect to his discharge of judicial duties, but also to his behavior outside his sala and as a private individual," the high tribunal said.

"The charge of immorality proven against Judge Villanueva demonstrates his unfitness to remain in office and continue to discharge the functions of a judge," it said.

The SC fined Judges Abraham Borreta, Amado Caguioa and Antonio Esteves

P2,000 each for playing pusa in court premises.

A similar charge against Villanueva was dismissed.

Ayson had accused the four of gambling and drinking in Borreta's chambers during office hours three times in 2001.

Borreta, Caguioa and Esteves admitted to playing pusa in one instance on Sept. 27, 2001, during a send-off party for Borreta who was being transferred to Pasig. Caguioa said the card game was played for fun and after office hours.

Villanueva denied having gambled and drank during office hours.

But the SC said that while the card game may have been "for fun," they used the court premises for this pastime, thus adding an inappropriate dimension to what would have otherwise been "an insignificant isolated event."

The SC also fined Judge Antonio Reyes P30,000 for accepting favors from the president of the Baguio Country Club Corp. The club is a defendant in a civil case filed by Ramon Ilusorio and being heard by Reyes.

Reyes was censured for allowing his bill with the club to be charged to the account of the club's president Federico Agcaolli. The SC said it was not far-fetched that the favor would influence the judge's decision in the Ilusorio case.

Caguioa was also fined P10,000 for allowing his court interpreter to receive evidence in two adoption cases, in violation of an SC circular.

Caguioa said he did not find this irregular as he was present during the proceedings.

Borreta was also fined P2,000 for entering into an agreement to sell the property of Purita Lorente, who had pending cases in the Baguio courts relating to her properties.

Borreta said the property involved was outside the jurisdiction of the Baguio courts.



...ates at the PB Dionisio shooting range in San ...ding to the group. The exercise, it said, is to show



## DENR voids sulfur-laden boat's permit

By Blanche S. Rivera and Leila B. Salaverria

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY ANGELO T. Reyes has cancelled a shipping vessel's license to transport hazardous materials after its barge, loaded with 1,270 tons of sulfuric acid, sank off Batangas Bay on Saturday.

The Billy Star vessel had run aground between Sibuyan Island and Romblon en route to Manila on June 4 and was brought to the Keppel shipyard in Barangay San Miguel in Bataan for repairs. But on June 24, a portion of its barge, which was allegedly corroded, sank into the sea carrying with it four tanker tanks of sulfuric acid.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources was conducting an investigation to determine the extent of environmental damage.

An initial report from the DENR region 4A revealed that despite fears raised by local and environment officials, there had been no sulfuric acid leakage into the bay.

DENR regional executive director Antonio G. Principe said the pH level, which would indicate acidity, and the temperature of the water surrounding the submerged barge, were still normal.

Tests done by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) at 8:30 a.m. yesterday showed that the bay's pH level was 7 and still within the normal range of 6.5 to 8.

The temperature was 30 degrees centigrade, which was also below the "dangerous level" of 35 degrees centigrade, said Principe, who visited the site yesterday.

"We're monitoring these important parameters, but right now, there's no leakage of sulfuric acid yet. There has also been no report of fish kills," Principe told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Reyes directed the Environmental Management Bureau to review the viability of requiring all vessels which transport hazardous materials to get environmental insurance. This would guarantee a fund for any cleanup or rehabilitation following any accidents.

The PCG, meanwhile, warned that the bullet tanks of liquid sulfuric acid was "highly corrosive" and "highly reactive."

They should be salvaged and disposed of to avoid the risk of explosion, PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyne told the INQUIRER.

## Just protecting our patent—Pfizer

Pfizer SAID IT HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO PURSUE a suit against the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD) and its officers to protect its patent rights over an anti-hypertensive medication that would expire in June 2007.

Recent reports that the company filed the suit to extend its patent were inaccurate and misrepresent the true intent of the company's legal action, said Pfizer in a statement sent to the INQUIRER.

"This is simply a matter of protecting, not extending, our patent for amlodipine besylate through its expiration date. Protecting intellectual property rights is critical to the research and development process and the safety of patients," Pfizer stressed.

The patent infringement suit filed on March 1, 2006, was meant to prevent PITC from marketing, distributing and selling Pfizer's patented compound amlodipine besylate, marketed under the brand name Norvasc.

The pharmaceutical firm said the lawsuit was necessary as BFAD had approved PITC's request to begin importing the patented compound as early as December 2005, despite knowledge of the validity of Pfizer's patent over amlodipine besylate until June 2007.

"Pfizer has made many attempts to resolve this matter amicably," said Ramon S. Esguerra, external legal counsel for Pfizer. "However, these requests have gone unheeded. Our only option at this point is to bring the matter to court."

Pfizer also said that PITC was importing its amlodipine besylate from unauthorized sources in India and Pakistan when it could have chosen from nearly 200 other off-patent anti-hypertensive medicines currently available in the Philippine market.

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## OPINION

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## Detailed charges

LAST YEAR, THE PUBLIC'S DESIRE TO GET TO the bottom of highly damaging allegations concerning the legitimacy of President Macapagal-Arroyo was wrecked. This was because of a combination of sloppy lawyering by people like Oliver Lozano and procedural sleight-of-hand on the part of the President's partisans in the committee on justice of the House of Representatives.

The sloppy lawyering resulted in an overly broad and insufficiently detailed impeachment complaint, further muddled by the circumstances surrounding its filing (and other complaints eventually filed). The procedural sleight-of-hand was in the form of the House never actually tackling the charges, but deciding that procedurally the complaints could not be entertained, period.

The other day, a new impeachment complaint was filed against Ms Arroyo. In contrast to the idiosyncratic efforts of Lozano, the new complaint was crafted over a long period of study by a battery of lawyers and thorough discussion among those who decided to initiate it, all of them citizens who decided to take the matter out of the hands of the politicians until the constitutionally ordained time for their intervention.

The President's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, immediately responded that the new complaint was merely a rehash of the old charges, which is similar to claiming that a comic book featuring "Ivanhoe" is the same as Sir Walter Scott's novel of the same name. Whether viewing the charges in their summary form (three broad points), or reading the 11-page detailed complaints (25 pages including notarizations and annexes) signed by the citizen-complainants, it is clear that in contrast to last year's efforts, this year's complaint avoids relying solely on controversial recordings, or a very broad and potentially unprovable enumeration of circumstances.

The first accusation is that Ms Arroyo "directed or allowed" fraud in the 2004 elections. The allegations are that aside from vote-buying and tampering with election documents, vote-padding and vote-shaving were carried out in Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo, Bohol and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao—allegations that the House can ask to be spelled out in detail. Allegations of illegal use of government resources, including funds budgeted for other purposes and the fertilizer scam, can also be detailed. Charges of impropriety in both appointing Virgilio Garcillano and engaging in "unlawful correspondence" with him for the purpose of massaging votes as well as allegations that the Armed Forces was used for fraud and that election returns in the House's custody were switched are not based entirely on the tapes. Instead, they bring to the fore behavior and testimony detailed in the media and other forums.

The second broad charge alleges that an official cover-up rivaling, if not exceeding the Watergate conspiracy of Richard Nixon, took place in response to the public disclosure of the Garci tapes. From the official handling of the controversy to executive decisions and issuances meant to impede investigative efforts and thwart public expressions of opposition as well as media coverage, the catalogue of offenses to the Constitution and democratic processes is extensive and damning.

Allegations of human rights violations revolve around the President's refusal to investigate or discipline Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as well as her approval of the illegal arrest and detention of her critics.

Finally, there are detailed accusations of tax evasion and concealment of assets at home and abroad, including property, accounts and businesses, as well as charges of graft and corruption in connection with the conclusion of contracts disadvantageous to the state.

House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles belabors the obvious when he reminds everyone that impeachment is both a "numbers game" and a "political process." But the question is: Is the House prepared to scrutinize the allegations, or will it view politics merely as an excuse to once more ignore a complaint that lacks the procedural defects that marred the previous one?

The bar on sending the complaint to the Senate for trial has been lowered a notch. With Rolando Andaya and Ronaldo Puno joining the Cabinet, House officials say the signatures required to endorse the complaint has gone down to 78 from last year's 79. But even a much lower number would be hard to come by if congressmen refuse to read, much less carefully examine, the complaint.



## GMA dodging new impeachment on a technicality

BEGINNING LAWYERS ARE USUALLY GIVEN two pieces of advice by the veterans. The first is: If the facts are on your side, pound on the facts; and if they are against you, pound on the table. The second is: If you cannot win a case on the merits, try to win it on a technicality.

It is the second that President Macapagal-Arroyo's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, is using to thwart a second impeachment complaint against his client. A new impeachment complaint cannot be filed at this time, he said, because the issue on the first complaint remains unresolved by the Supreme Court. A new complaint will still be within the one-year prohibition provided by the Constitution, according to him.

I don't agree. First, the first impeachment complaint has already been dismissed by the House of Representatives, so the issue in the Supreme Court has become academic. That's what the defenders of GMA have been saying: the impeachment complaint is dead and buried. But now that the opposition and a private group are set to file new complaints, Macalintal is resurrecting a "dead issue."

Second, the complainants are not filing the old charges. They are filing new violations of the Constitution committed by the President after the first impeachment complaint was filed last year. It is similar to a burglar who has been charged with theft. While that case is still pending, he commits another burglary, so he is charged again for theft. He cannot plead double jeopardy because the two crimes are different and independent of each other. So he is charged twice. And if he is convicted in both, he would be punished for both.

Similarly, GMA is sought to be impeached this year not on the basis of crimes committed before, which are the subject of the old complaint. She is being charged now for violations committed after the old complaint had been filed and dismissed. I think that is not included in the prohibition intended by the framers of the 1986 Constitution. That provision prohibits the filing of more than one impeachment complaint within one year. It was intended to

## AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



prevent the President from being harassed by nuisance suits.

But I do not think that the intention is also to prohibit the filing of a new complaint because a court has not resolved a case on a technicality that has become academic. If it is otherwise, what is to prevent the lawyers of the President from filing numerous petitions and motions with the courts to keep the case alive and prevent the filing of a new impeachment complaint?

As for nuisance suits, the new complaint is far from being one. The Supreme Court itself has declared three of the President's actions as violations of the Constitution.

Are the lawyers of GMA afraid that the facts are against their client so that they are trying to win the case again on a technicality? From the very beginning of the cases against her, from the Garci tapes to other violations of the Constitution, GMA has avoided facing the issues squarely and answering them. Instead she evaded them on technicalities and through the force of numbers in the House. That is not the normal behavior of an innocent person. That is the behavior of a guilty one. An innocent person wants to face her accusers immediately so she can prove them wrong. A guilty one tries every trick to avoid a confrontation.

If the people pushing Charter change really only want a unicameral legislature, they should support the proposal to abolish the House of Representatives, instead of the Senate. Those opposed to Cha-cha at present will quickly make an about-face if the congressmen will be dismissed. What's more, GMA's war against corruption will al-

ready be half-won if the House is erased. For about half of the taxes lost due to corruption pass through the hands of congressmen. A big chunk of that is left in their pockets.

Funds stolen through the pork barrel in various disguises amount to billions of pesos. Those are funds snatched, in the form of taxes, from the mouths of the poor to fatten congressmen. Contrary to popular belief, the stink you smell when you go to the Batasan does not come from the nearby Payatas dump, it comes from the souls of corrupt congressmen.

Why do congressmen insist on being miniature departments of public works and highways by specifying what public works projects to put up in their districts and choosing the contractors to build them? According to the Constitution, their duty is to enact laws, not to be de facto secretaries of public works. The Constitution has assigned that job to a Cabinet member. Why do they insist on usurping the job of the public works secretary and his engineers? I think you already know that there are hundreds of millions of answers to that.

We would save billions of pesos every year if the House is abolished, not only from the pork barrel funds saved but from the salaries, allowances and other expenses of the congressmen. Not much would be saved by abolishing the Senate because there are much fewer senators, and at least four of them have already eschewed their pork barrel allocations. Besides, the glory of the Philippine Congress is brought about only by the Senate, by senators like Recto, Laurel, Tañada, Diokno, Sumulong. Who is the administration congressman we can be proud of? Nobody.

The most popular (to the congressmen) speakers are those with the fastest pen to sign checks and vouchers. That is why no speaker was ever elected president immediately after coming from the House. Deep in their hearts, the voters know what they are.

## Still, more than ever, scary

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, MANY FILIPINOS also waited for some kind of *dux ex machina*, a thunderbolt from heaven to strike Marcos to solve their problems then. And they were elated when the usurper-dictator was stricken with lupus. They waited for lupus to take its effect, but it never did. Not until much later anyway, when he was no longer in power. It wasn't lupus that did Marcos in, it was the people. Which was as heaven had always said it would be. It was written in its very gates: God helps those who help themselves.

It's a good reminder for those who are currently waiting for a thunderbolt to strike GMA, or its equivalent in disease. At the very least, that is waiting for Godot, and Godot arrives only for those who do not wait. At the very most, because the thing that laid GMA low last week is not of the same order as lupus. It's worse. As my friend, Billy Espino, texted me last weekend, St. Luke's Hospital withheld the real diagnosis of GMA's affliction. Written in the most scientific terms in medical scrawl, it said "Patient is full of a—t."

The comparisons with Marcos made me recall a couple of columns I wrote shortly before the last elections warning of where GMA was going. The first column was called "Scary," which came out on Feb. 23, 2004, and the second was called "More than ever, scary," which came out exactly a month later.

In the first column, I said GMA looked dead yet to do another Marcos. "This is the part that scares the hell out of me. GMA has acted with this degree of unscrupulousness without a popular mandate.... What would happen if by chance and more frenzied application of lying, cheating and stealing, she should get a second crack at power?" I said that if that happened, GMA, like Marcos, would never relinquish power but would do everything in her power to keep it.

This sparked an angry reaction from a reader who said surely I knew in my heart it wasn't true, GMA was no Marcos. I replied in the second column that I didn't just believe this to be true, "I feel it to the marrow of my bones." If I

## THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



had any doubts then, I do not have them now.... Here is a dogged pursuit of power the likes of which we have not seen since Marcos. She has already pawned the present. She'll soon pawn the future—if she hasn't already."

From hindsight, I was slightly off the mark only in two respects. One was in saying if she won a second term by a more frenzied application of lying, cheating and stealing. She never did. I never imagined she would actually call Garci to rig the results. That is a scale of ruthlessness comparable to Marcos waiting in the bushes with a sniper's rifle for his father's enemy, Julio Nalundasan, to brush his teeth. Except that in this case, the victim is democracy, shot through its very heart.

The second was in saying GMA's is a dogged pursuit of power that has not been seen since Marcos. In fact, it hasn't been seen at any time in this country, the Marcos era included. Marcos at least was restrained by his lawyer's mind to found his atrocities on legal plausibility. GMA is not restricted by anything.

To this day, I do not know how it was possible for many of us to not have read this monumental danger that stared us in the face in 2004. The signs were everywhere, lit in neon. To this day, I do not know why many of those who now desperately seek to rid this country of her thought to prop her up to begin with. The only reason I can think of is that most of us completely underestimated what she was capable of. Our judgment was based on "natural expectation," on a belief that "she would not dare" go past universally accepted limits.

It was the same thing during Marcos' time. Marcos caught the country flat-footed when he declared martial law because, despite all the

signs being there, most Filipinos, including the opposition, thought he "would never dare" do it. It just wasn't done. Well, true enough it wasn't done—by normal people for whom normal expectations applied. But what if you were dealing with someone who was ruthless enough to do the unthinkable? The country found out too late Marcos was one.

We're finding out too late GMA is one. The normal expectation when GMA came to power was that she would be beholden to the people who put her there, especially as she had done little to earn it. A few months later, courtesy of 9/11, she dared tell the citizens they were either with her or against her. The normal expectation when GMA said she would not run again because of public disgust over her rule was that she wouldn't. Less than a year later, she dared run again, she dared bankrupt the treasury to campaign, and she dared steal the vote to win. She even dared say later God put her in Malacañang, as though God would be so mysterious as to try to sound like Garci.

The normal expectation when the "Hello Garci" tape surfaced and when Cory and some of her own people abandoned her was that she would resign. Instead she dared call the crime "a lapse in judgment" and clung to her position. The normal expectation when her approval plunged to unprecedented lows, the surveys saying 65 percent of the population wanted her ousted, was for her to go on the defensive. Instead she dared issue EO 464, CPR and PP 1017, which plunged the country into de facto dictatorship. The normal expectation when the killings of journalists and activists had reached slaughterhouse proportions and were being decryd here and abroad was that she would rein in her murderous legions if only to score minor points. Instead, she has dared unleash a war that would not only sanction it but pile up the body count.

During Marcos' time, this was a country of one asshole and 65 million cowards. The only thing that's changed today is that we've become 88 million cowards.

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## People power in the parliamentary arena

BEFORE THE LAPSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL ban on filing multiple impeachment complaints against an official "within a year of each other," a group of citizens, smitten by civic conscience, filed with the House of Representatives a second impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo following the dismissal by the House committee on justice of a consolidated complaint filed in July last year.

Whether or not the second complaint is covered by the ban, it gives Ms Arroyo the dubious distinction of being the President who attracted the most impeachment actions within a term, as well as the most coup attempts, rivaling the record of former President Corason Aquino.

Also for the record, the second complaint was the first one to be initiated by a group of citizens from a broad cross-section of civil society, numbering at press time more than 200, unlike last year's complaint which was initiated by lawyers.

I wonder if this intervention by citizens' groups gives the complaint more chances of success than the previous complaint, which the administration party machine strangled in the House, blocking its endorsement to the Senate for trial.

The citizens' action cannot be faulted for lack of zeal and passion for self-righteousness, given that its members had a prayer vigil while waiting for the Cinderella hour to lapse so they would be first on the queue. Indeed, they beat some other enterprising lawyers to the draw, and House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno has acknowledged receipt of the complaint, saying he would promptly transmit it to Speaker Jose de Venecia before Congress reopens on July 24.

Thus, the citizens have now entered the parliamentary arena and their complaint has started a process whose outcome is far from certain. Given the political machinery into which they have fed their complaint, it bothers me to think that they could have just shoved their complaint into the maw of Baal (the god to whom the Carthaginians offered their children for sacrifice to bless them in

### ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



their epic military struggle with Rome in the Punic Wars)

The list containing the names of the more than 200 citizens who signed the complaint is impressive. It includes big names in the academic community, intellectuals and former high-ranking officials, along with high-profile perennial detractors of President Arroyo and leftist opponents of the regime, whose ranks are being decimated by the paramilitary death squads prompted by unseen hands.

By collecting a large number of signatures, the citizens' group is playing the numbers game to confront the political machine which killed the previous impeachment complaint. They have entered a bruising arena which is the home terrain of their foes who have their own ground rules and who can muster the numbers in a showdown. They are fighting on extremely disadvantageous grounds, where the slaughter of the complaint is almost certain. They are trying to storm a fortress without siege machines.

The citizens' initiative is a variation of people power, transferred from the venue of street protests to the parliamentary arena, but it is basically a reiteration, with a change of form, of the objective to oust President Arroyo by other means after coup attempts and the people power campaign failed.

One of the objectives of the complaint is to put closure to the election rigging issue stemming from the Garcillano tapes, an issue that is at the bottom of the legitimacy crisis bounding the Arroyo regime. I have no quarrel with the citizens' initiative in this objective and in using impeach-

ment as a constitutional approach to lay this legitimacy issue to rest. During the impeachment proceedings last year, I argued that the House majority should not crush the complaint with its numbers, but instead send it to the Senate, and that the President should take a risk in the trial, which could have gone either way. Whatever the outcome of the vote in the Senate, it would have broken the stalemate over her legitimacy.

I did not share the jubilation of the President when the House voted to dismiss the impeachment complaint with 158 voting yes against 52 voting no on the motion upholding the committee on justice report to dismiss. "The Filipino people mark a glorious day in history, when instead of forcing a President out of office through people power, they chose to keep a President through voting in the halls of constitutional democracy," the President said. It was not a glorious day and it failed to break the impasse over the issue of legitimacy.

While the House vote was made within the rules of parliamentary democracy, what is more important is that the vote did not dissolve the issue of legitimacy. It merely sank the seed of the issue into fertile soil, only to germinate again when the proper climate comes. The new complaint represents the revival of an issue that has refused to be buried alive by the crushing weight of the majority in the House.

Much as I would like the new impeachment complaint to clear the House and to be transmitted to the Senate for trial for a definitive decision, I have doubts if it would fare differently from the previous complaint, given the unchanged configuration of political forces in Congress.

My misgivings stem from: first, the content of the expanded new impeachment complaint; second, the seemingly sloppy construction of the articles of impeachment by their initiators; and third, the delusion of the initiators that the number of signature puts sufficient weight to push the complaint beyond the House.

I shall amplify on these in the next column.

## Giving wealth away

FIRST IT WAS NEWS ABOUT BILL GATES, THE WORLD'S richest man, announcing that he was giving up his job at Microsoft so he could devote his time to his charity, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. That foundation has given billions of dollars in grants, mainly to global health programs to fight diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Yesterday, there was even more earth-shaking news: Warren Buffett, sometimes described as the world's second richest man, announced that over the next five years, he would be giving away 85 percent of his wealth, in the form of stocks in his investment company, Berkshire. Based on the current prices of the stocks, it is estimated he could give away as much as \$37 billion.

Buffett will be giving the shares to five foundations, including the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation named after his wife. But of the five foundations, the largest recipient will be the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### Family foundations

Our schools, especially those teaching business, should pick up on these recent developments as case studies on philanthropy, social responsibility and business ethics.

Buffett represents a growing number of business people who believe that one shouldn't aspire for wealth for the sake of wealth itself. Instead, wealth is seen as a way of doing good. These businesspeople also believe profits should be returned back to a society that generated it in the first place.

It's an intriguing concept, especially coming from the United States with its cut-throat competitive capitalism. But I've had to work with some of these foundations and have been quite impressed, particularly with the family foundations. These are different from corporate foundations. For example, there is a Hewlett-Packard corporate foundation, but there are also separate family foundations set up by that company's founders: the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation as well as the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The story goes that David and Lucile Packard first processed project proposals in their kitchen, as people would write them to solicit donations for various causes. Over the years, as Hewlett-Packard grew, so too did their personal donations. All over California you'll find the legacies of their philanthropy, from the Lucile Packard Children's Hospital in Stanford University to the Monterey Aquarium, to an old movie theater in Palo Alto preserved for its architecture. (If only some Filipino philanthropist had done that for the ardeco Avenue Theater, now being demolished.)

After David and Lucile Packard passed away, they left much of their stocks to the foundation. Today, the foundation has an entire building to house its staff, and gave away \$201 million last year to American and international non-profit organizations.

### Mega-philanthropy

If Forbes magazine has its listing of the world's 400 richest people, there's also the Slate 60, an annual compilation by Slate (Washington Post's online news and features service) that monitors what has been called mega-philanthropy. The Slate 60 lists America's largest charitable contributions by individuals.

Leading the list for 2005 was Cordelia Scaife May, who died in January and left behind \$404 million to various charities. Second in the Slate 60 list were Bill and Melinda Gates, who gave \$320 million to their foundation. Hollywood celebrities have always been conspicuously absent from the Slate 60, with the exception of Oprah Winfrey, who last year donated \$51.8 million to her own foundation, which works mainly with programs for women and children.

"Buffett's billions" will be sure to top the Slate 60 for 2006, and will unlikely be surpassed for many years, but we can expect to continue to see multimillion-dollar donations, with a distinct trend of people donating while they are still alive.

Many of these donations go to universities, something which we're starting to see in the Philippines with the likes of Angelo King and the Gokongwei family. In the United States, the philanthropies have diversified into all kinds of causes. George Soros funds projects to promote more democratic systems, particularly in Eastern Europe. David and Cheryl Duffield, who made their money from PeopleSoft, a software company, donated \$93 million last year to their own Madie's Fund, named after their miniature Schnauzer, which concentrates on animal welfare projects.

### Mega-poverty

Mega-philanthropy accompanies mega-wealth. The global consulting firm Capgemini estimates that in 1996 there were only 4.5 million millionaires throughout the world. Recently they released a new study estimating the number had nearly doubled to about 8.7 million. (If you're wondering, the million has to be in US dollars.)

There are now so many millionaires that a new term—"ultra high income"—is now used to those whose assets exceed \$30 million. I don't know how we should call billionaires, with Forbes magazine reporting that in 2006, there were 793 of these people, including, I think, two or three in the Philippines.

The more radical will say charity donations can only be a stop-gap measure, but mega-philanthropy does bring out new potentials for dealing with the world's mega-problems. It's not surprising that Bill Gates is giving up his job at Microsoft. It's not just a matter of not needing the money, but of administering the huge funds in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, especially with the influx of Buffett's donations.

Buffett is intriguing, too, because of his decision to donate the bulk of his wealth to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which has led to jokes about the world's second richest man giving all his money to the world's second richest man. Buffett explains that rather than building up the Buffett Foundation, he felt it would be better to just give to the Gates' foundation, which is already scaled up. Most of the other mega-philanthropists have donated to their own foundations, so it'll be interesting to see if Buffett sets a new trend.

Let's see what happens in the Philippines. There is mega-wealth in our country, and mega-poverty. American philanthropy reminds us that there has to be limits to wealth. Andrew Carnegie, who had migrated from Scotland to the United States in the 19th century, and rose from rags to riches, decided quite early that he would not take a salary of more than \$50,000 per year and that income beyond that amount he would spend for "benevolent purposes."

Of course, \$50,000 was a lot of money at that time, but Carnegie's new take on wealth translated into an early form of mega-philanthropy, mainly donations to educational institutions and libraries. Before he died, Carnegie had given away some \$350 million, probably equivalent to Buffett's billions when we factor in inflation. After he died, he still had \$30 million, all of which was bequeathed to charity.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



## GMA's 'pasalubong'

### AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



guarding the unusually frequent deaths of journalists, activists and church workers, including some propounded by Cabinet members that the victims had it coming, either as a result of an internal purge within the Left or because of "other" activities that the slain journalists engaged in.

We may never find the "smoking gun" which would leave gunshot residue on GMA's hands, but her public pronouncements certainly implicate her, indicating her sins of commission and omission.

Her declaration of war against the Communist New People's Army could certainly be taken as blanket permission to go after "the usual suspects," even those who are engaged in legal organizing and protest, no matter how irritating these may be to officialdom. As for the journalists' death, her silence has been deafening and the inaction of law enforcement agencies frustrating to those who keep track of the body count. While journalists may indeed have been killed by jealous husbands, business rivals or criminal elements, it seems too much of a coincidence that many of those who have been assassinated were leading crusades against corruption at the local and national levels.

So while the Pope may for now give his "blessing" to GMA, the President shouldn't rest easy. The wheels of God may grind slowly, but they grind exceedingly fine.

PERHAPS included in the "pasalubong package" the President hinged to Rome is the recent decision of the Department of Education to temporarily halt "for further study" the distribution of its sex educa-

tion modules among public high school teachers.

The decision was made after someone claiming to write on behalf of a commission of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) wrote a letter to the DepEd decrying the educational materials, saying these "encouraged" students to try pre-marital sex by transmitting information on family planning methods. (Does giving life jackets to ferry passengers encourage them to jump off the ship?)

Ramon San Pascual, executive director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), in reaction to the DepEd's decision, asks: "Which is more disturbing: making accurate information available (to teenagers) to enable them to make informed choices or deliberately denying information and praying that they do not get too curious and get pregnant at an early age?"

Studies done around the world, says San Pascual, have shown "that young people who had sexuality education are more likely to postpone sexual initiation." This is because, armed with the necessary information, young people are more likely to be less curious and fascinated with sex. As for the bishops' contention that parents should be the only sources of sex information and education for young people, a national survey (as well as personal experience) has found that more than half of our youth say they do not feel comfortable discussing sex with their parents.

IN AN OPEN letter, San Pascual warns: "By denying (young people) accurate and relevant information on reproductive health, we are putting them at a greater risk of having unwanted pregnancies or acquiring sexually transmitted infections. We are denying them a chance to have a better future by not empowering them to make responsible choices and decisions."

It's one thing to seek a host's approval by offering up legislation and policy that would be pleasing to the host. But entirely another thing to sacrifice the welfare of present and future generations just for a sprinkling of holy water, a kindly smile and a fatherly pat on the back.

## Same problems and familiar feelings

EVERY WEEK, I TRY TO MAKE THE ROUNDS of Ermita antique shops, from the one-stop Casa Tesoro which has six dealers under one roof (the best being Nora Ignacio's Sinagala) to the row of shops that specialize in Oriental ceramics fronting Ermita Church (the most visited being the shop of the semi-retired Venancio Magubos). It is a pleasant way to spend half a day. It is also my means of getting some exercise by walking through a side street toward Arquiza where there are shops that carry ethnic items (Floy Quintos of Gallery Deus) and reproductions (look for Magdalena Nely whose famous slogan is "We make modern antiques"). My weekly pilgrimage always ends with me browsing at Solidad bookshop followed by snacks of ensaimada at Hizon's bakery. On these hunting expeditions, I have come upon some reasonably priced items like old photographs, my favorite being that of Manuel Roxas and his wife standing in front of an over-sized cake, or sometimes books and magazines.

It was in Ermita that I acquired a bundle of Aeneas Monthly issues from July 1922 to February 1923. I didn't give them much thought and didn't value them much, until I learned that the Aeneas de Manila University Library and archives do not have copies. I found them on my shelves recently, and opened them at random to read some juvenile writing. But I was surprised to see how relevant some of the issues still are, over eight decades later.

Now that we have a re-enacted budget and everyone is wondering whether the Department of Education will get the funds it always needs and wants, perhaps we can go back to the editorial of September 1922 and wonder how much we have progressed since then.

"Our government officials are now fixing the budget for the next year, and one of the difficult questions that faces them is to fix the assignment for the Department of Education. Tentatively, they are cutting P1,000,000 from the sum allo-

### LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



ted to this department. According to Mr. Tracey, this means the closing of the high schools in the provinces. To me, this is the least harmful of the two alternatives open to the authorities.

"The other alternative would be to close a large number of the grade schools. But our government is for the people, and its benefits must be given to the largest possible number of the people. Let us then, in this time of crisis, invert the high school fund to the primary and intermediate schools, and thus benefit a larger number of our boys and girls."

"For those children of the lower schools who exhibit excellent minds, of great promise, we suggest the opening of central high schools in Manila. High marks, not pesos, would be the entrance fee into these schools."

"From this course of action a benefit may flow, accidentally. Too many of the lordly high school graduates of today are seeking the stiff-cuff jobs. And their country suffers. The humble grade school graduates of tomorrow—may many of them seek the lowly but happy and honorable and urgently needed career of farmer. Thus infinite resources of our fertile lands will be uncovered."

"However while we urge this procedure, let it be clearly understood that we by no means oppose high schools. Their value to our people is incalculable. We only say that in the present crisis it is of more vital value to keep open as many as possible of the primary and intermediate schools."

Of course, we do not have exactly the same problems as the past but the issues of funding, choice of where to put those funds, and even the

quality of schools, teachers, textbooks and students have been discussed for so long and yet we seem to be stuck in the same situation. I read this 1922 editorial with some amusement because in it we see the continuing relevance of the past, which is a polite way of saying we have progressed little in almost a century. How depressing indeed.

But then the Aeneas Monthly struck a high note in sports, with an editorial on Pancho Villa. The sentiments expressed there could very well be what we feel for Manny Pacquiao today.

"Pancho Villa, the champion bantamweight and flyweight of the Orient, won on September 16 [1922] the flyweight championship of America with a technical knockout over Johnny Buff in the eleventh round, at Ebber's Field, Brooklyn, New York. About 30,000 were present."

"The Manila Whirlwind gave Buff an awful lacing. He won every round, and this against a much more experienced opponent. Being unknown a few months ago, he is now admired throughout the United States."

"The Aeneas de Manila rejoices with the rest of the Philippine people at this event of the sporting world. We all know that Pancho is a humble and likeable fellow. This victory of his has shown the world that the Philippines has at least one top-notch boxer, and marks the official entrance of our athletes into the realm of sport. Thus, we have lifted one more of those obscuring veils that hide from the world the true Pearl of the Orient. So we, all the students of the Aeneas, sincerely congratulate Pancho Villa for being the first Filipino to gain a championship title in America, and wish him great success for the future, especially in his contemplated bout with Jimmy Wilde, the flyweight champion of the world."

Villa now lies quietly in the Manila North Cemetery with boxing gloves and a wreath embellishing his tombstone.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu



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## A priest inspired by a young Filipino

I AM FR. LUCIANO FELLONI, A missionary priest from Argentina. I have served 11 years in the Philippines, more specifically in Payatas, Quezon City. At present, I am establishing here in Korea a mission for the religious congregation to which I belong. I'm working with Filipino migrants and, as I love the Philippines, I usually read daily the online version of the *INQUIRER*.

Last June 19, after a really terribly heavy day at a Korean language school, after a long "wrestling" with God and with the tongue-twisting Hangeul language, I sat down at the computer and opened the INQUIRER website, where I found the inspiring Youngblood article, titled "Wrestling with God" (PDI, 6/19/06), written by Anton Dominic Magbanua.

I'm writing because I sincerely want to thank the *INQUIRER* for giving persons as wise as Anton the opportunity to publicize his reflections. I was truly inspired and edified by his testimony. As a young priest struggling in my new mission, I was able to muster a lot of energy and inner strength from

his article.  
May  
God  
bless  
him!

One of the biggest blessings God has given me was to be assigned to the Philippines, where I came to know so many Filipinos and shared their many joys. I saw many of them go through sacrifices and sufferings, yet remaining strong, to make this world a better place.

I can't help but remember all the volunteers with whom I worked in Payatas, with the young people of Payatas, the best youth in the world! Now that I'm here in Korea, I still see so many Filipinos making so much sacrifice for their families, for their children and, most of all, for their country's future.

With young Filipinos like Anton, the Philippines has a bright future ahead. *Mabuhay ang Pilipinos!*

—FR. LUCIANO FELLONI, FDF,  
Sons of Divine Providence,  
Seoul, South Korea

**An Everest climb is a climb  
and a feat to be proud of**

I AM DEEPLY SADDENED BY how Filipinos doubted and ignored Dale Abenoja, the Filipino mountaineer who claimed to have summited Mt. Everest, too.

To me, it doesn't matter whether he is indeed the first, second, third or fourth Filipino to conquer Mt. Everest, or if he or any Filipino did reach Everest's summit at all.

I take my hat off to all Filipinos who climbed Mt. Everest. Climbing that mountain, even without reaching the top, is by itself already a feat considering the harsh condi-

tions that can claim one's life

It was so sad that all the welcome and the praise did not include Abenoyar. I think it was mean of Filipinos to brush him aside. We could have celebrated the achievement of the four (or so) Filipinos who went up Mt. Everest.

I hope we can set aside biases, look at the big picture and band together. To Abenjoar, congratulations! I pray for his full recovery.

—MICHELLE C. BAUTISTA  
United Parañaque 1  
Parañaque City

## VFA has a twin agreement

I HAVE A COMMENT ON INQUIRER's June 21 editorial titled "Lemus test." It railed about the unfairness of an agreement which is called "the VFA." The agreement nearly universally referred to as "the VFA" in the Philippine press is one of a pair of companion agreements.

What the editorial referred to as "the VFA," is an agreement between the RP and US governments "Regarding the Treatment of United States Armed Forces Visiting the Philippines."

The other companion agree

ment, very rarely mentioned in the Philippine press, is an agreement between the RP and US governments "Regarding the Treatment of Republic of the Philippines Personnel Visiting the United States of America."

Considered in isolation, either one of these two companion agreements would appear lopsided. Considered together, the two companion agreements would not appear so.

—BILL MITCHELL  
Boracay Island  
bill.mitchell@pobox.com

[illegible]



## Period covered: June 9 to 30, 2001

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LEAVING NO DATE TO CHANCE, the opposition led by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona files another impeachment complaint, endorsed by his son Rep. Teofisto III, which is exactly the same as the one filed on Monday.  
JOAN BONDOC



## Oliver strikes again; Tito files case, too



LOZANO

From page A1

one-year period began, it decided to file an impeachment complaint every day for one week just to be sure it covered all the bases.

Hence, the Guingona complaint yesterday, with more of the same to follow—all containing the same charges against the 59-year-old President who is on a weeklong trip to Europe.

### Double dead

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who is travelling with Ms Arroyo, said the new impeachment initiative was "double-dead meat" that was best buried. He said the President was halfway around the world trying to drum up investments, jobs and tourism for the Philippines.

"She is focused on her public duty. Like a laser beam and no amount of political gimmickry will take her eyes off her goal," Bunye said.

The wily Lozano said he knew precisely when the race began. He said House records showed that in fact he filed his first impeachment case on June 27, 2005.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero's observation last year seemed prescient. The Lozano petition was meant to keep Ms Arroyo in power, not to kick her out.

the ban expires on June 27. That is the price for fighting with hatred in their hearts," said Lozano.

Lozano shot to national prominence when he tried to ignite a move to recall the dictator Ferdinand Marcos after his ouster in 1986.

Amid the furor last year over allegations Ms Arroyo manipulated the 2004 vote that provoked calls for her resignation, Lozano filed his impeachment complaint. It was derided by the opposition, who said it was a sham.

The House minority later brought its own case to unseat the President on charges that were rehashed for the current initiative.

That the opposition dithered before moving to file its complaint last year proved fatal.

Ms Arroyo's majority allies in Congress threw out the minority complaint and decided to consider the Lozano petition, because it was brought first. They later soundly trashed it.

### Not an Arroyo straw man?

Lozano has denied he is Ms Arroyo's straw man, no matter that his complaint was endorsed by an administration lawmaker.

"I saved the day for them [the opposition]," Lozano gloated in refiling his old complaint. "They should just join me because I provided a fallback position for them."

He said that his complaint last year got 51 votes and the opposition could just work to get additional signatures to reach the magic number of 78—not 79 as earlier reported because two members had been appointed to the Cabinet—or a third of the House membership of 234.

Pro Arroyo lawmakers doubt that the opposition could get as many signatures as they garnered last year in their failed effort.

However, House Secretary General Roberto Nazareno dismissed Lozano's "refiling" of his amended complaint last year.

"That's nothing. You shouldn't even bother with that," he said in an interview.

### Endorsement needed

While admitting that Lozano might be correct about the date of the end of the one-year ban, Nazareno said that under House rules, any filing or notice of refiling of impeachment complaint should be sent to his office and not the Speaker's.

He also pointed out that Lozano's claim that the complaint was "refiled" had the required endorsers.

The complaint presented by 30 congressmen last year was dismissed by the House. If he wanted to refile it, he should have again gathered the necessary signatures, Nazareno said.

Nazareno said that he had returned to Lozano his amended complaint when he initially tried to refile it on May 16 "for lack of endorsers" and also because the one-year ban was still in effect then.

### Complaint never returned

Lozano, however, said that his complaint was never returned to him and that it was still "on file" with the House.

"It is not true that you returned the Lozano amended impeachment complaint for lack of endorsement. Just check your records and you can see the endorsed Lozano amended impeachment complaint. It is still on file," he said.

Lozano also said that it was the House justice committee, and not Nazareno, that would decide which among the impeachment complaints filed after the one-year ban expired would be recognized. With a report from Armand N. Nocum.

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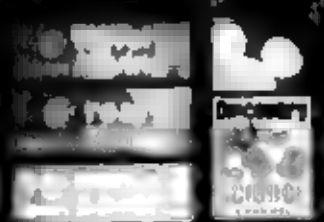
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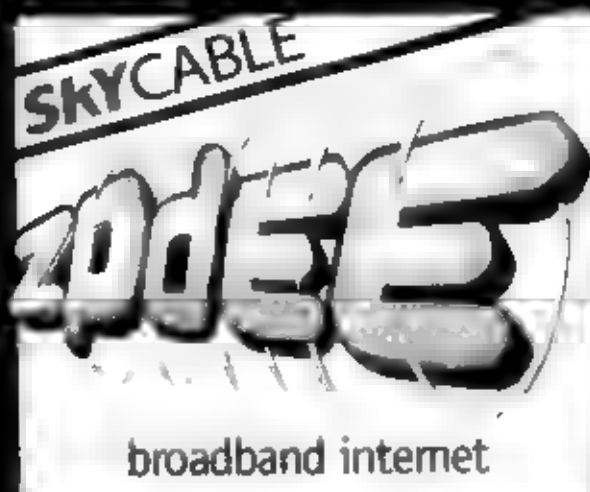
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# 'Pope knows about Garci,' says Bishop Cruz

From page A1

amend the Constitution.

"He knows about the situation in our country and from the way he sees things, I would say that he is very inspired," she said.

## Elated

Malacanang officials and proponents of Charter change were elated at what they believed was the blessing the Pope gave to the Arroyo administration's campaign to revise the Constitution.

"We're encouraged that the President is encouraged and so is everybody else who are supporting the President and the advocacy she's fighting for," Ms Arroyo's political adviser Gabriel Claudio said.

Claudio said the Palace-created Advocacy Commission would continue to go around the country to raise public awareness on the benefits of Charter change, especially the shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Equally elated was lawyer Raul Lambino of the Sigaw ng Bayan, which is a proponent of the people's initiative to change the Constitution.

"Considering that we are the biggest Catholic nation in Asia, we're happy that the political reform that we hope can happen soon was given blessings [by the Pope]," Lambino said.

He expressed the hope that the Pope's comments would "bring enlightenment" to Catholic bishops opposed to Charter change and the shift to a parliamentary form of government.

"It's high time we adopted the system adopted in European countries like Italy, which is the seat of the Roman Catholic religion," he said.

## Think twice

If Ms Arroyo is convinced the Pope is happy about her administration, she better think twice, said Cruz, a former president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

"Don't make a fool out of him because he is not," Cruz said, reacting to the plaudits Ms Arroyo received from the Pope.

"He definitely knows about Garci and the other scandals, the killings of activists and journalists, and the all-out war against the New People's Army," said the Lungayen-Dagupan prelate who's familiar with the workings at the Roman Curia.

"He has a picture of the socio-moral condition in the country—I'm quite certain about that."

Cruz said oversimplifying the Pope's reaction to suit the administration's objectives would be an affront to the "kindness and intelligence" of Benedict.

## Ratzinger

Formerly Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Pope Benedict is best known for his intelligence and humility—two traits seemingly obscured by his tough and controversial job as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

By protocol, Cruz said the Pope is briefed by Vatican officials on the affairs of a particular country whose head of state or government is coming for a visit.

Benedict's picture of the Philippine situation was also heavily based on the pastoral statements issued by the CBCP, copies of which are transmitted to the Curia as a matter of protocol, the prelate said.

Since Benedict assumed the throne of St. Peter last year, the CBCP has sent him five pastoral statements, four of which covered major social and political issues in the Arroyo administration.

## Search for truth

One of them called for a "relentless" search for the truth about the "Hello Garci" scandal, which questioned Ms Arroyo's victory in the 2004 elections. A subsequent pastoral statement shot down the people's initiative as a way of changing the Constitution.

"It seems that the changes as they are being proposed now will benefit mainly those who already hold positions of power and privilege in the current political system," the bishops had said.

Affected by the bishops' engagement on the moral dimension of political and social issues, Ms Arroyo claimed Pope Benedict did not look kindly on clergy members supposedly meddling in Philippine affairs.

"The Church is not meddling," said Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, the CBCP spokesperson. "It is the mission of the Church to involve herself in moral issues... If there is injustice and cheating, the Church must do something."

## Picket 'surprises' GMA

Ms Arroyo was also hounded by critics in Rome.

Italian, Filipino and other migrant activists picketed the hotel in Rome where Ms Arroyo was staying to demand an end to the political killings and push for better assistance to overseas Filipino workers.

The activists, numbering about a dozen, carried large streamers calling for Ms Arroyo's ouster and shouted slogans within earshot of the President as she was about to enter the Grand Hotel on Sunday, said the Netherlands-based European Office of Migrant International.

In a statement, Migrant International, which organized the rally, said the protesters were able to position themselves for their protest several minutes before Ms Arroyo arrived at the hotel.



LAST STOP IN ROME: President Arroyo pays a courtesy call on Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at the Palazzo del Quirinale.

MALACANANG PHOTO

The picket ended peacefully but organizers said the President and her entourage were "visibly surprised," it said.

The Filipino activists, according to Migrant, claimed they were misled by Philippine Embassy officials in Rome about the hotel where the President would be staying "but sympathetic media persons gave them the exact information."

Several Italian and Filipino media

agencies covered Ms Arroyo's arrival and the protest.

Earlier, Filipino migrant organizations in Rome and Milan hosted discussion groups and forums on the killings of political activists in the Philippines, the corruption in the Arroyo administration, and "other fascist and antipeople acts."

In Milan, Filipino groups distributed information materials on the killings and held prayer vigils.

## Real picture

In Manila, militant students said they would write to the Vatican to present the real picture of how the Arroyo administration regards life and human rights.

In a statement, Anakbayan national chair Eleanor de Guzman said various youth groups were planning to send a "petition letter and statement of unity" addressed to the Pope "to give him a clearer picture of the government's genuine regard for life and human rights."

De Guzman also said her group scoffed at Ms Arroyo's proclamation of a "gift of life" to the Pope.

"It's nothing but a grand lie, a poor attempt at 'political cleansing,'" said De Guzman.

## 'Height of hypocrisy'

The Tanggulang Youth Network for Civil Liberties and Human Rights said the abolition of the death penalty law was the "height of hypocrisy."

"That the spate of extrajudicial killings continues unabated renders the abolition of the death penalty law a mere token act to boost Arroyo's image," said Alvin Peters, convenor of Tanggulang.

Dion Carlo Cerraforon, Student Christian Movement of the Philippines (SCMP) chair, said "it seems that the value of human life is the least concern of the administration. With reports from Jerome Aning and Alcuin Papa

# World Cup fever leaves GMA cooling her heels

From page A1

The leader of the Center Left coalition watched Italy edge Australia, 1-0, to win a place in the quarterfinals of the quadrennial soccer spectacle before he sat down for a meeting with Ms Arroyo.

The victory that engulfed Italy in euphoria worked in the Philippines' favor, said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

A jubilant Prodi agreed to grant almost all the favors Ms Arroyo sought for Filipino workers in Italy.

"It was a good omen," Bunye said of the delayed meeting at the Palazzo Chigi.

## She got what she wanted

The victory sent people out to celebrate, blowing horns, unfurling flags and partying.

Bunye said the delay was also due to Prodi's winning the plebiscite for amendments to the Constitution, which was also announced late yesterday afternoon.

"So, the talk between the President and Prodi went well, with Prodi in a jubilant mood," he said.

Bunye said Ms Arroyo's proposal for the drafting of rules and regulations on migration looked like a "done deal."

He said Ms Arroyo primarily requested the easing of Italian rules on the entry of migrant workers and allowing any Filipino with a Philippine driving license to automatically get one in Italy, among other things.

"Prodi says they will study it because it applies to the loosening of rules on entry and the stay requirements of

OFWs," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo also met yesterday with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at the Palazzo del Quirinale.

## Private stop at pilgrim site

After the meeting at 8 p.m., Ms Arroyo flew to Spain. There, she will have a two-day "President's time" in Santiago de Compostela, a pilgrim site in the northwestern province of Galicia where the remains of Saint James, one of the 12 apostles, are interred in a magnificent cathedral.

The President will be accompanied by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo who will celebrate his birthday there.

"The President needs to rest and like anyone of us, we really need to have private time for ourselves and our families," Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo's trip to Spain will coincide with the 4th anniversary of Filipino-Hispanic Friendship Day which falls on the 30th of June, Bunye said.

## RP-Spain cultural year

She will also be the principal guest at the celebration of Philippine-Spain cultural year 2006 and the Philippines exhibit at the Madrid Cultural Center.

During this time, former Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas will sign an agreement with the Spanish government opening Spain's doors to Filipino migrants, Bunye said.

Ms Arroyo will also discuss investment possibilities with Spanish businessmen and extend to them her invitation to invest in the areas of alternative energy, IT and tourism in the Philippines.

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# MILF asks gov't, NPA to talk peace

**COTABATO CITY**—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) called on the Philippine government and communist rebels to return to the negotiating table, saying that a continued war would not settle anything but will only increase the sufferings of the Filipino people.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, also urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to reconsider her all-out war against the New

People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, since it will not solve the 37-year-old communist

insurgency in the country.

Muhammad Ameen, chair of the MILF Secretariat, said the offensive against the 7,500-strong NPA is very disturbing as the government might do the same to the MILF in case the ongoing peace process does not succeed.

"The government had done military berserk (sic) on two occasions in 2000 and another in February 2003, even if the peace talks were in progress. This uncertainty can be

linked to a statement made by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales in April, this year in Davao that there will be war in Mindanao in two years time," Ameen said.

The rebels pulled out of Norwegian-brokered peace talks in 2004 to protest their inclusion in the United States' and European Union's lists of terrorist organizations.

Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, said the government is always open for peace.

Last week, Ms Arroyo ordered the release of P1 billion to fund the campaign against communist rebels.

Of the total funding, the Philippine National Police would get P300 million to "fortify soft targets or ill-equipped police stations."

The MILF made the appeal as the military reported capturing an NPA camp with 164 bunkers in Sitio Bendum, Barangay Busdi in

Malaybalay City in its offensives against the rebel group that started on June 8.

Lt. Col. Francisco Simbayon, of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, said soldiers also recovered 125 drums each containing 120 sticks of dynamites.

Simbayon said the rebels maintaining the camp transferred to their main lair some 200 meters away. *Jeffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Irked mayor says loggers would be shot dead

**DIGOS CITY**—MAYOR ARSENIO Latasa has warned illegal loggers here they would be shot dead if they continued cutting trees.

Latasa issued the warning as he ordered local environment officials to coordinate with the police to put a stop to illegal logging.

He said it was better to sacrifice the lives of a few people who continue destroying the environment.

"These people, who are only thinking of their own welfare, should be stopped," he said in the wake of the floods that hit the city since last week.

The floods, triggered by intermittent rains, have swept at least seven houses in the city and destroyed more than P20 million worth of property.

Reynaldo Caballero, disaster action officer, said 33 poor families with 126 dependents suffered severe losses due to the floods.

Officials said rampant tree cutting in upland villages near Mt. Apo was the main cause of the floods.

The decomposing body of a 58-year-old farmer was recovered in



**ENVIRONMENT** Secretary Angelo Reyes takes part in a recycling program of La Trinidad, Benguet with town Mayor Nestor Fongwan. The program seeks to help in the national campaign to preserve forests and stop the illegal cutting of trees.

Magsaysay, Davao del Sur on June 25. He drowned in flood waters as he tried to cross a bamboo bridge.

Erick Bonbon, of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, was found dead

two days after he went missing at the height of the flood that hit the town on June 24.

Latasa said he did not want people killed because of the greed of a few.

"I don't mind losing a few 'bull-heads' to save millions (of pesos) worth of property and hundreds of lives that are at stake during flash floods," he said. *Eddie Aguirre, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

## Warning system up in Sorsogon villages

**IROSIN, SORSOGON**—

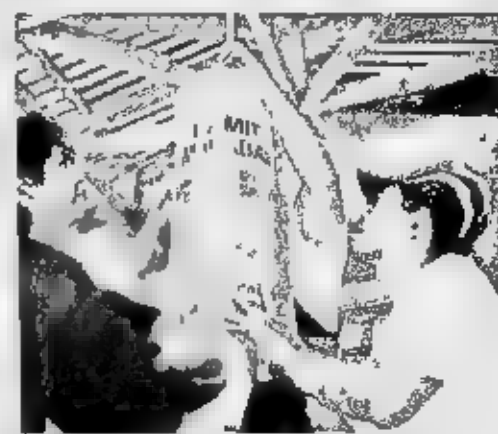
Office of Civil Defense officials yesterday personally turned over bells called "baiting" to serve as an early warning system to the towns most affected by the Bulusan volcano's activity.

OCED turned over a total of six bells to Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales and Juban Mayor Tess Guab-Fragata for Barangays Añog and Puting Sapa while assuring Casiguran will also be given three bells.

The warning system would help barangay residents respond to dangers especially during volcanic eruptions or lahar flows, said OCED-Bicol regional director Arnel Capili.

Barangay disaster coordinating councils will get help in establishing their own warning system composed of bell codes that would forewarn the residents of an impending disaster, he added.

Some evacuees housed at the Gallanosa National High School had returned to their residences after being informed that the



**EMPTY** oxygen tanks are transformed into warning bells that are the main components of a system to warn residents of eruptions or lahar flows from Bulusan.

*NINO JESUS ORBETA/PCO SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU*

danger had somehow diminished, said Gonzales.

Only 50 families consisting of 177 persons have remained in the school, according to municipal social welfare officer Hilda Martinez.

In Juban, with over a thousand evacuees, the Municipal Disaster Coordinating Council has yet to decide how to allocate its meager resources for the evacuees even as the danger from the volcano significantly lessened according to Mayor Guab-Fragata. *Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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## 6 drown in Bataan; 3 rescued

**BALANGA CITY**—SIX men who joined a swimming party in Morong, Bataan, drowned on Monday while three of their companions were rescued, police reports said.

Reports from the Bataan police said the bodies of Basil Gamoren, 22, of Makani City; Randolph Mercado, 24, and Mark Arrian Macias, 23, both of Tondo, Manila, Henry Bukgayan, 32, of Malate, Manila, and Patrick Cidro, 24, Mandahyang City, were recovered by rescue workers on Tuesday morning.

The body of the sixth fatality, Jun Hernandez, 26, of Malate, Manila, was recovered on Monday afternoon.

Reports said the victims went to the Morning Star Beach resort in Barangay Poblacion in Morong on Monday to attend an outing organized by a youth group in Metro Manila.

The resort's staff members, according to the reports, warned the victims about the strong waves but the victims ignored the warning and proceeded to swim.

As they were swimming, big waves and a strong undercurrent pulled them to deeper parts of the water.

Police said Valerie Paredes, 22, Nio Rama, 24, and Dennis Cantonia, 24, were rescued on Monday afternoon. *Greg Refracion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

## ROUNDUP

### 3 wounded in attack

**MALAYBALAY CITY**—Gov. Jose Ma. Zubiri disputed a military report that 25 people were killed in a land dispute in Talakag town on June 22. Earlier, Capt. Ritchie Pabilonia, spokesperson of the Southern Command, said armed members of a *luma* tribe raided Sitio Kibulad in Barangay Undalang at about 5 a.m. and killed 23 villagers and wounded two others. Two of the attackers, he said, had also been killed. "That's not true," Zubiri told the *inquirer*. He said a *luma* group had indeed attacked a hamlet in Sitio Kibulad but only three people were injured. "One of those injured had claimed that 23 people died during the attack. We sent policemen to the area and found out nobody died," he said. *Grace C. Atbasin and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

### Solcom's Broso: 'Sorry'

**LUCENA CITY**—Southern Luzon Command spokesperson Maj. Jose Broso said he erred in a report on the supposed surrender last week of a Mangyan tribesman from Mindoro Island, who was identified as Rolfo Fugoso. (*Inquirer*, June 27, page A13) Broso admitted that there was a mix up in the information that reached the command which led to the wrong identification of Fugoso as a New People's Army rebel. The Mangyan Mission in Mindoro said Fugoso was allegedly tortured and forced to admit to being an NPA rebel. The arrest allegedly violated a peace agreement with the Mangyan federation. *Delfin Y. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### Power barge burns

**LEGASPI CITY**—A power barge of the National Power Corp. docked at the Masbate City port caught fire at about 12:15 a.m. on Friday, disrupting electricity in Masbate province. The damage was placed at P30 million, the Office of Civil Defense here said. Masbate information officer Jaime Barbez said it would take time before power outside the city was restored. Three fire trucks and two fire boats helped put out the fire, according to OGD regional director Arnel Capili. *Ephraim Aguirre, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

### No funds for wage hike

**DL MAGUETE CITY**—More than 1,000 employees of the provincial government may not receive their P1,000 in additional monthly compensation that will start in July. Provincial treasurer Danilo Mendez said there is a salary adjustment, the provincial government might have some difficulty complying with it. He said the expected increase in the internal Revenue Allotment could not be given to the local governments because the budget had not been approved. As a result, the LGUs would also operate based on last year's budget, which did not include the additional compensation mandated by Malacañang early this year. *Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### 2 killed in shooting

**BACOLOD CITY**—An 11-year-old girl was killed while her father was wounded on Saturday when unidentified persons fired at their home in Barangay Salamaña, Toboso town, Negros Occidental. Rochelle Gepitolan died two hours after she was brought to the San Carlos District Hospital. She was buried on Monday. Her father Rodolfo, 41, was still in the hospital, recuperating from a bullet wound in the right leg, said Toboso police chief Senior Insp. Romeo Leyte. Police said Gepitolan family members were having dinner on Saturday night when their home was fired at. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

### E. Pimentel; 65

**FORMER** governor and two-term congressman Emmanuel "Jesse" B. Pimental, 65, died of cardiac arrest on June 22 at the Leon Hernandez Medical Center, formerly Briola Hospital, in Daet, Camarines Norte. Members of the working press, friends and supporters swamped radio stations in Daet with expressions of condolences over the passing of Pimentel, a former broadcaster. He is survived by wife Punita Guinto, children Jonah and Jay, and their spouses, and three grandchildren. His remains lie at the provincial capitol. He will be buried this afternoon at the Virazons Catholic Cemetery. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*



# INQUIRER Northern

## 101-year-old lighthouse is Bolinao's landmark

**Editor's Note:** This is the third of a series of reports on lighthouses in Northern Luzon. The INQUIRER is featuring these century-old structures to highlight their importance to the country's northern sea lanes and call attention to their neglect.

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes  
Bolinao, Pangasinan

**F**OR 101 YEARS NOW, THE CAPE Bolinao lighthouse stands proud atop Punta Piedra Point in Barangay Patar in Bolinao, Pangasinan, guiding ships and vessels cruising the international passage along the South China Sea.

While the lighthouse has become a tourist attraction by itself, it has failed to do its 'job' of guiding sea vessels at night

Nestled amid trees, the lighthouse was built in 1905 by Filipino, British and American engineers. It is one of the five major lighthouses in the country and the second tallest, next to the Cape Bojeador lighthouse in Burgos, Ilocos Norte. It has become a prominent landmark that tourists frequent.

The 30.78-meter (101-foot) tower provides a panoramic view of the blue sea and white beaches, offshore reefs and rock formations, as well as rolling verdant hills. Once in a while, a passing vessel dots the sea, an international route of vessels going to Hong Kong, Japan and the United States.

The 140-step winding stairway of the tower leads to the illumination room, 76.2 m above sea level. According to Pedro Honrada, the lighthouse's head keeper, the lantern is visible 44 kilometers away, guiding seafarers (led toward this area by a lighthouse in Zambales) toward the lighthouse in Poro Point, La Union.

The late Bolinao historian Catalino Catanaoan said the original light machine was manufactured in England, while the lantern, with three wicks and chimneys, was imported from France.

"Filipino machinists were able to copy the original [when they repaired it]. The light machine is rotated by a system of gears like that of a big clock with pendulum of weights, wind and suspended with steel cable," he said.

### Kerosene fuel

The lighthouse was fueled by kerosene during its first 80 years of operation. When the Pangasinan Electric Cooperative extended its lines to Patar, the lanterns were powered by electricity.

In 1999, the lighthouse was renovated through a loan package extended by the Japanese government to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which is in charge of the facility. Aside from repairing and repainting the tower, the assistance included setting up of solar panels, a new apparatus and two beacon lights. The panels recharge the lights.

The lighthouse has also been getting the attention it deserves from the municipal government.

In June last year, Mayor Alfonso Celeste entered into a memorandum of agreement with the PCG to "adopt" the Cape Bolinao lighthouse to ensure its preservation and maintenance, under the PCG's "Adopt a Lighthouse Program."

Under the MOA, the PCG continues to be the sole owner of the lighthouse. It has the right to deny entry into the area during emergency cases and is responsible for the operation, repair and regular maintenance of the beacon light and its supporting mechanisms.

On the other hand, the local government will take charge of rehabilitation and maintenance of the immediate vicinity (except

that of the beacon, solar panels and other equipment), provide maintenance personnel, and protect the facilities from vandals.

### Cultural heritage

The local government is also tasked with promoting the declaration of the lighthouse as a cultural heritage.

Already, the lighthouse compound has been spruced up. The uphill road leading to the tower has been paved through the help of Pangasinan Rep. Arturo Celeste. A view deck has been put up in the area.

The rehabilitation of the administration building and a public bath was funded by the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Brunner Carranza, municipal planning and development officer, said a worker assigned by the local government keeps the area clean all day.

While the lighthouse has become a tourist attraction by itself, it has failed to do its "job" of guiding sea vessels at night, Honrada said.

In early November 2004, the beacon lights started to dim until it finally shut off on Nov. 8.

"The batteries bogged down," Honrada said. He has been following up with the PCG navigation command the repair of the batteries that cost about P1 million—to no avail.

"My wish is that before I retire (in October), the lighthouse will be working again," Honrada said.



THE SOLAR-POWERED and battery-operated Cape Bolinao lighthouse atop Punta Piedra Point in Barangay Patar, Bolinao, Pangasinan, with its 101-foot tower.

PHOTOS BY RAY B. ZAMBRANO

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THE SPIRAL staircase of 140 steps leads to the illumination room.





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## Protest rally greets new PNU president

### Failure to meet standards cited

By Tina G. Santos

SEVERAL FACULTY MEMBERS and students of the state-run Philippine Normal University (PNU) yesterday held a rally to voice their displeasure over the appointment of lawyer Lutgardo Barbo as their new president, saying he had failed to meet some of the minimum standards set for the post.

Students, teachers and administrative staffers wore black shirts as they held a rally and noise barrage inside the PNU

campus on Taft Avenue, Manila to question the decision of the eight-member Board of Regents (BOR), the university's highest policy-making body. Black pieces of cloth and a streamer with the message "No to politics, yes to merit" were hung from one of the buildings.

The BOR had chosen Barbo, a former governor of Eastern Samar, over four other nominees—Dr. Esther Ogena, Dr. Twila Punsalan, Dr. Rosa Maria Llanes and Dr. Carolina Danao. The protesters claimed that Bar-

bo's name should not have been included in the final list of three candidates submitted by the search committee.

"We were surprised to find out that he got the position when in fact, he ranked last among the five candidates," said Felice Yeban, a Department of Social Sciences professor. "He does not even have a minimum of five years of administrative experience in teacher education or related fields," she added.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Barbo for comment.

## Kidnap gang head arrested

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AUTHORITIES HAVE FINALLY caught the elusive leader of a notorious kidnap-for-ransom (KFR) group operating in Metro Manila.

Noel Enacmal, the suspected leader of the Waray-Waray gang which is being linked to the abduction of at least 20 Chinese-Filipino citizens, was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in his safe house in San Mateo, Rizal last Thursday.

"The group, which Enacmal allegedly headed with Calvin Lagado, was also responsible for a string of pawnshop, payroll and bank robberies in the metropolis," NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring said in a press conference yesterday.



NOEL Enacmal, alleged leader of the Waray Waray gang, a kidnap-for-ransom group, was arrested last Thursday in San Mateo, Rizal. (NBI/INQUIRER)

Enacmal also faces charges of robbery after allegedly participating in two Union Bank heists led by the Ilonggo group in Parañaque City, Mantaring said.

The NBI had presented to media three members of the same group last week—Enacmal's brother Fromencio, Gualberto Castillaja and Andres Lucero. The suspects were arrested during successive operations conducted earlier this month.

Based on information provided by Lucero, operatives of the NBI

National Capital Region (NCR) Office and the San Mateo police finally traced Enacmal's whereabouts. Regional Director Ruel Lasala, NBI NCR chief, said the Calvin Lagado-Noel Enacmal Waray-Waray group was responsible for the kidnapping and killing of Coca-Cola executive Betti Sy in Parañaque City two years ago.

The group was also involved in the abduction of Wilham Uy in Malabon City; Danny Uy in Maate, Manila, and Gelina Dy in Paco, Manila, among others.

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## METROBRIEFS

### No super hero

PERHAPS believing he could fly like his favorite super hero, an eight-year-old boy shouted "Captain Barbell!" before jumping to his death in front of a mall in Quezon City on Monday. Joel Mar Torres, an out-of-school youth, died instantly after he leaped from a pylon tower, a triangular structure bearing advertisement signboards, in front of the Robinson's Shopping Center on Quirino Highway, Noviches, police said. Just before he jumped, Torres was heard shouting "Captain Barbell," the name of a mythical Filipino super hero whose story was turned into a television series by GMA 7. A bystander heard the boy's shout just moments before his body fell to the ground, said Insp. Reynaldo Medina Jr., chief of the general assignment section of the Quezon City Police District criminal investigation division. It was not immediately clear from what height Torres had jumped, but Medina estimated that the pylon tower was at least two stories high. "He was a one, and he probably felt like climbing that high. It's possible that he had snuffed a solvent and was having hallucinations," Medina said. Torres' body is now in the crime laboratory for autopsy, he said.

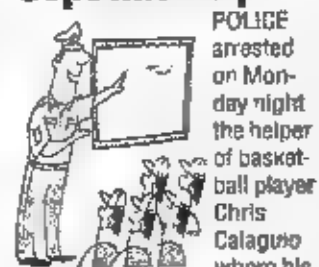
DJ Yap

### Training for QC barangay 'tanod'

BARANGAY watchmen or "tanod" in Quezon City are undergoing police training to beef up peacekeeping measures in the city. More than 2,000 have so far completed a month-long refresher course in fighting crime, a project of the QC Peace and Order Council in coordination with the QC Police District. The "tanod" were taught different techniques in making arrests, proper handling of evidence and defense tactics with operatives from QCPD's legal, service, crime investi-

gation and crime laboratory divisions giving the lectures. More barangay watchmen are expected to undergo the same training soon. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., who chairs the peace and order council, said the refresher course could help the "tanod" become effective partners of the police in the drive against criminality. QCPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Radoyan Jr. said the course could help establish close coordination between barangay watchmen and policemen. DJ Yap

### Cops nab helper



POLICE arrested on Monday night the helper of basketball player Chris Calaguio whom his wife accused of stealing bags and grocery items from their house in Marikina City. But helper Joy Masangkay, 19, denied the allegations. PO2 Albert Zeller told the Inquirer. She also told the police she was forced to leave the house because she was being maltreated. Calaguio's wife Meral, 28, had reported to the police that Masangkay, who had been serving the family for about a month, left their house on Sunday afternoon and took the items, including the P2,500 savings of another helper. Calaguio was busy playing for his team, San Miguel Beer, that Sunday afternoon. The family also watched the game at the Araneta Coliseum, leaving Masangkay alone in their house in Barangay Jesus Oala Pena. The following day, investigators managed to track down Masangkay. She was already working for another employer on Danga Street in Sta. Mesa, Quezon City, where police traced her after she left her phone number to friends.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

# METRO

## MMDA launches new complaint service

By Tarra V. Quismundo

DO YOU HAVE A GRIPE against operations conducted by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's operations? Let your camera-equipped cell phones do the complaining. The MMDA has launched the Multimedia-Aided Monitoring Service (MAMS), a feedback mechanism through which residents in Metro Manila would be able to send to the agency pictures taken using their cellular phones.

The picture could be of any problem they encounter on the road such as flooding, uncollected garbage or corrupt traffic enforcers.

"They could send us pictures of any concern that falls under the MMDA's responsibility or any problem

they see around Metro Manila, and we will refer it to the agency concerned. A picture is the best evidence," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center executive director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Anybody with a cell phone equipped with the MMS (multimedia messaging service) feature can avail of the feedback mechanism. Complaints should be sent to 0920-9389861 or 0920-9389873. Senders, however, will be charged the standard MMS rates for every message sent.

MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System (MRRES) chief Mon Santiago said senders should indicate where the picture was taken but they can opt not to identify themselves.

"The location should be

indicated so we could respond immediately. What will happen is after we receive the message, we would capture or download the picture into a computer," he told the Inquirer yesterday.

The MMDA Metro Base, the agency's 24-hour road monitoring system, would then inform the unit to look into the problem, said Santiago, who was among those who designed the MAMS.

"The system is now in place but we are still improving it to make our response faster," he added.

According to Santiago, the sender would receive a text message as soon as the MMDA has acted on the problem.

The MAMS program is the brainchild of MMDA chair Bayani Fernando.

## Man shot dead after kidnap try

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

A GYM INSTRUCTOR WAS shot dead by policemen in Antipolo City on Monday after he tried to kidnap a friend.

Ramil Nicodemos, 29, died of multiple gunshot wounds after he allegedly shot it out with responding policemen, PO2 Rodol Druja told the Inquirer.

His alleged victim, stewardess Joana Ramos, 38, was rescued unharmed.

Druja said Ramos and Nicodemos first met two years ago and had been exchanging text messages ever since. Nicodemos had found out that Ramos was looking for a helper so he volunteered to accompany her

from Quezon City to Antipolo City on Monday, saying he knew someone who was looking for work. But while they were inside the vehicle, Ramos got suspicious, she told the police. She got out

of the van but Nicodemos forced her to return.

Policemen chanced upon the commotion but instead of giving up, Nicodemos got shot at the law enforcers with a 9 mm handgun.

### DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that the positioning of the hands of the Our Lady of Edsa in Quezon City has a meaning?

The Virgin's left hand is upturned, and the right hand is outstretched to symbolize that she is receiving the grace of God and passing it on to the people. The three doves flitting beside the sculpture were placed in honor of the late curator Adiel Arevalo—friend of sculptor Virginia Ty-Navarro—and John Gokongwei and Paquito Origas, who both donated the land on which the Edsa Shrine was built. PDI Research



NCRPO Chief Gen. Vidal Querol: Not to worry

EDWIN

## Binay, Querol clash on bomb drill timing

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IF IT WERE UP TO MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay, no bomb attack simulation would be held in the country's financial district, especially since it had just been weeks since two explosions hit the city.

Binay yesterday expressed "serious reservations" on the plan of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) to simulate a bomb attack somewhere in the city, saying "detonating a bomb in the heart of the country's financial center might cause undue panic."

"Detonating a bomb on Ayala Avenue during a work day is not the way to assure the public of protection. If the drill is intended to show our response to a bomb attack, then it means that an attack has already occurred and our security preparations have failed," the mayor said in a statement.

NCRPO chief Vidal Querol, who had proposed the exercise, however, said

the drill was meant to test the city's preparedness for such an attack. "We are not going to scare the people and the captains of industry in Makati," said Querol.

He added that plans for conducting the bomb attack simulation have yet to be finalized, but the drill was likely to be scheduled within the week.

"The goal is to find out if their incident management plans are workable. I am still going to talk to Ayala's security managers. I had told them that they should choose a time, date and place that would not be bad for business," Querol said.

He explained that the drill would not involve detonating a bomb on Ayala Avenue since it would only be a simulation of an attack.

For Binay though, it would be better to employ teamwork to avert such attacks, citing that holding the drill at this time "might be misinterpreted as an actual bomb attack" if shown in international news channels.

# How to protect your child



Age 1 is the Discovery Stage. Your child starts to walk and explore the world around him. He needs protection now, more than ever, for him to discover the world and go further.



# Thailand's political parties face dissolution

BANGKOK—PROSECUTORS said Tuesday they will ask a court to consider dissolving both the ruling and the main opposition parties over claims of vote fraud, in a move that threatens to push Thailand back into political turmoil.

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's ruling Thai Rak Thai and the opposition Democrats face separate claims of wrongdoing in the run-up to snap elections held on April 2, which the courts have since invalidated.

"Prosecutors have decided that the cases should be submitted to the Constitutional Court to consider dissolving the parties," the attorney general's spokesperson Attaphon Yawsawang told reporters.

"The prosecutors believe that there is enough evidence to submit the cases to the Constitutional Court," Attaphon said.

"Prosecutors will draft the appropriate letters and send them to the Constitutional Court as soon as they are finished," probably within the week, he added.

The Democrat Party, the country's oldest, has been charged with six violations of electoral law, including a claim that its boycott of the April 2 polls was illegal, he said.

Thaksin's party has been charged with breaking two laws, including illegally financing fringe groups to contest the election in a bid to boost the polls' credibility after the boycott.

Prosecutors will also ask the court to dissolve three fringe groups that Thai Rak Thai is accused of bankrolling.

Thaksin on Sunday denied any wrongdoing, and the Democrat spokesperson on Tuesday also insisted the party was innocent.

"We didn't do anything wrong," spokesperson Ong-art Klampai-boon said. "I have no idea why the party should be dissolved." He also questioned why the attorney general had decided to pursue the charges against the Democrats so quickly, just one day after the Election Commission made the accusation.

Attaphon said the decision to bring the parties before the court

was made in a unanimous vote by a panel of 11 of the nation's top prosecutors.

The prospect of Thailand's two most powerful parties being disbanded pushes the country farther into uncharted political waters after months of turmoil.

"We've never had this kind of crisis before," said Uthairat Pathmanand, a professor of political science at Chulalongkorn University.

"If the court finds the parties guilty, the whole political party system would be weakened. We will not have any political leaders. It could deepen our political crisis." If the parties are dissolved their leaders would be barred from forming new ones for five years.

The courts have taken an unprecedented role in the country's political crisis since the nation's revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej ordered judges on April 25 to take action. Since the king's televised speech, in which he branded the elections as "undemocratic," the courts have invalidated the April snap polls and set the stage for new elections tentatively set for Oct. 15.

Thaksin, 56, had called the elections in hopes of ending months of mass street protests in Bangkok accusing the billionaire politician of using his office to enrich his business empire. Despite the discontent in Bangkok, his popularity in rural Thailand gave his party a clear victory.

## E. Timor's ex-PM faces probe over death squad

DILI—EAST TIMOR'S FORMER premier is to be questioned this week over allegations he authorized the arming of a hit squad tasked with silencing his opponents, the prosecutor-general said Tuesday.

Mari Alkatiri, who has denied the allegations, resigned on Monday after caving in to mounting criticism, demonstrations and resignations of government ministers.

"We have summonsed him to appear in the prosecutor's office for interrogation," prosecutor-general Longuinhos Monteiro told AFP, adding that Alkatiri was expected at the office on Friday.

Asked if the former premier could face charges after questioning, Monteiro said, "I don't want to comment on it now. We will see what the answers are that the prime minister will give."

An Australian documentary broadcast last week purported to show evidence of Alkatiri's involvement in arming a secret hit squad, triggering a demand by President Xanana Gusmao for him to stand down.

Alkatiri's spokesperson, Miguel Sarmiento, could not say if the former premier had received a summons but cast doubt over whether he could be questioned until a new premier had been appointed.

"It's not sure if it will be Friday. I am not sure if Mr Alkatiri has received anything or not... I also heard comments from others but not the prime minister," he told AFP.

Monteiro said the interrogation would serve as a "cross check" following questioning of former Interior Minister Rogério Lobato, who is accused of distributing arms to civilian members of the squad.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Russia confirms envoys' deaths

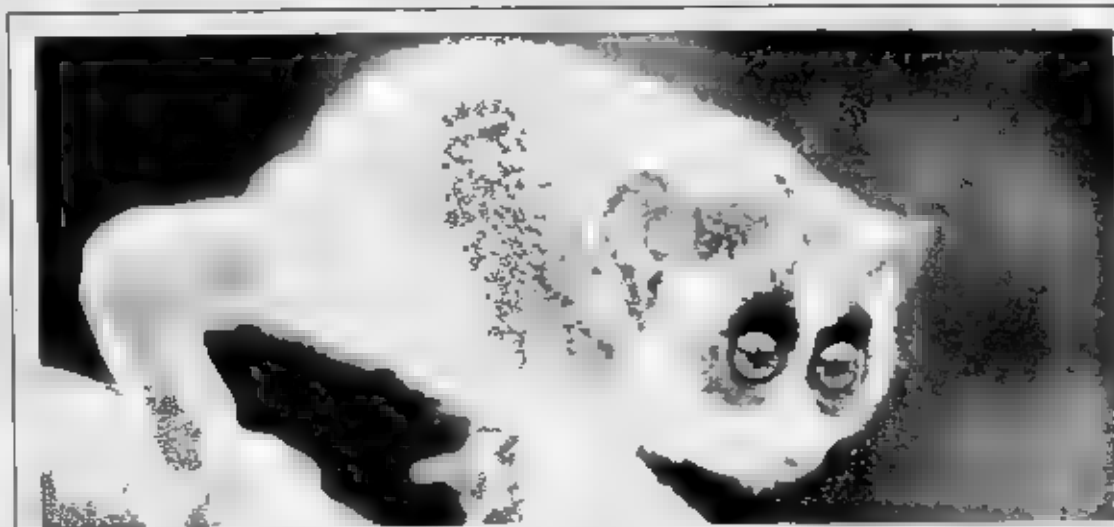
MOSCOW—Russia has confirmed that four of its diplomats taken hostage in Iraq are dead, after a gruesome Internet video purportedly showed two of the men being executed. "It's with deep sadness that we announce that the workers at Russia's embassy in Iraq have quite obviously suffered the ultimate despite all the measures taken for the freeing of our compatriots," the foreign ministry said in a statement released on Monday. An insurgent coalition led by al-Qaida said Sunday it had killed the four men—Fyodor Zaytsev, Rinat Aglyulin, Anatoly Smirnov and Oleg Fedoseyev—in a statement published on an Internet site used by militant groups.

### Bombs kill 40 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—Powerful bombs ripped through markets in two Iraqi cities at dusk Monday, killing at least 40 people and wounding 89. The attacks hit Baqouba and Hillah just hours after two key lawmakers told The Associated Press that Sunni Arab insurgent groups had contacted the government about joining a reconciliation effort. The deadliest attack—a bicycle bombing in Baqouba, the Sunni insurgent stronghold 60 km northeast of Baghdad—killed at least 25 and wounded 33, according to Dr. Ahmed Fouad, director of the morgue at Baqouba General Hospital. Minutes earlier a marketplace blast in Hillah, a mainly Shiite city, killed at least 15 people and wounded 56, said police Capt. Muthana Khair.

### Disgraced scientist stripped of state honors

SEOUL—South Korea was moving to strip disgraced cloning scientist Hwang Woo-suk of state honors he received for stem cell research later revealed to be faked, an official said Tuesday. Hwang will be stripped of his Order of Science and Technology Merit Changjo Medal in July, said Min Jin-kee, an official in charge of the issue at the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs. The 52-year-old scientist was indicted last month for allegedly accepting 2 billion won (US\$2 million) in private donations based on the outcome of falsified research and embezzling about 800 million won (US\$834,000) in private and government research funds. If convicted, Hwang faces at least three years in prison, which could also see him lose another honor, the Order of Service Merit Red Stripes, Min said.



### ENDANGERED

A Slender Loris (*Loris tardigradus*) walks on a branch at a shelter in Bangalore. The tiny primate, measuring six to 10 inches long and weighing about 350 grams, has been hunted for centuries for its purported qualities as an aphrodisiac, asthma cure and as a kind of living voodoo doll.

## Mahathir expects expulsion from ruling party

KUALA LUMPUR—FORMER MALAYSIAN LEADER Mahathir Mohamad said Tuesday he expects to be expelled from the ruling party following his unbridled criticism of the government that has roiled the country's politics and raised fears of instability.

"I know there is this process of demonizing me" in the ruling United Malays National Organization party, Mahathir told reporters. "I think they will take action to expel me... they are building up toward it," he said.

Mahathir's relations with the government have plummeted in recent months in the wake of his

stinging attacks on Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Although Umno has backed Abdullah in the row, Mahathir is believed to have some supporters in the party, creating fears that he could split the party and destabilize the government.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said Tuesday that Umno has taken no stance on whether Mahathir should remain in the party.

"We have not talked about such matters... we have not taken any position," he told reporters.

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# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Israel gears up for major offensive on Gaza Strip

KEREM SHALOM, ISRAEL—THOUSANDS OF ISRAELI TROOPS massed on the Gaza border Tuesday, poised for an offensive to free a kidnapped teenage soldier likely to trigger a sharp escalation in Middle East violence.

The 19-year-old Israeli corporal, who also holds French nationality, was snatched on Sunday in a brazen raid on an army post on the Gaza Strip border in which two other Israeli servicemen and two Palestinian fighters were killed.

Israel has flatly rejected a demand from three Palestinian groups, including the armed wing of the governing Hamas movement, for the release of all Palestinian women and children from Israeli jails in exchange for information on the soldier.

Although Israel has said it will first exhaust diplomatic efforts to free 19-year-old Gilad Shalit, Palestinians in southern Gaza have abandoned border homes fearing a large-scale assault, while militants fearing assassination have gone to ground.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has imposed a full naval and ground blockade on Gaza, amid fears that Hamas militants could try to smuggle Shalit out.

"There will be no negotiations, no bargaining, no agreements," Olmert said Monday, warning that a "large-scale military operation is approaching." "We will not wait indefinitely, because we have no intention of being blackmailed by Hamas," the prime minister thundered.

Sunday's attack, which saw gunmen from Hamas's armed wing and other militant groups tunnel their way into Israel, was the deadliest militant assault in the area since Israel's pullout of the Gaza Strip last summer.

The ensuing standoff between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, under huge pressure to ensure that Shalit is returned alive, has provoked the worst Middle East crisis since the Islamists of Hamas formed a government in March.

Scores of Israeli tanks and armored vehicles lined up in farmland in the south near the Kerem Shalom crossing between the Gaza Strip and Jewish state, their turrets and guns pointing

straight towards the Palestinian territory.

Army radio reported deployments of two infantry regiments and two armored battalions, which would put the concentration of troops at around 5,000.

Turning the screws on the Hamas-led government—boycotted both politically and financially by the West over the group's status on terror blacklists—one cabinet minister warned Israel could easily kidnap its high-profile members.

"If we start with kidnappings, Israel has no problem entering the Gaza Strip and kidnapping half the Palestinian government," Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told army radio on day three of the hostage crisis. The infrastructure minister, who belongs to the center-left Labour party, said the soldier was "alive" while the radio station reported that he had fractured his hand and was wounded in the stomach.

Amos Gilad, a senior defense official, stressed that Israel was "combining political and military pressure" to end the kidnapping but said the government had taken "all measures necessary in order to be ready to act at any moment." An editorial in Israel's tabloid Maariv newspaper emphasized the seriousness of the situation as Shalit's life hung in the balance. **AFP**



THIS photo shows an Enhydrys Gyll, known locally in West Kalimantan as Kapuas mud snake, which can change its skin color. **AP**

## Chameleon-like snake discovered in Indonesia

JAKARTA—SCIENTISTS IN Indonesia have discovered a new and mysterious species of snake in the depths of rain forest-clad Borneo which has the ability to change colors, the WWF conservation group said Tuesday.

The half-meter long snake, known locally as a "mud snake," was collected by a WWF consultant and a German reptile expert in the wetlands along the Kapuas River in West Kalimantan more than a year ago.

"It has since been established that it is really a new species," the WWF's Iwan Wibisono told AFP.

"The peculiar thing with this snake, is that it can change color... That is relatively rare among snakes," he told AFP.

The feat, which some reptiles

have mastered in order to evade predators, was discovered when the reptile experts put the reddish-brown snake into a pail and it turned white, he said.

He noted that the ability to morph colors was typically a defense mechanism among reptiles.

"But since the mud snake is poisonous, what purpose does the color-changing ability serve?" Wibisono asked. Scientists are speculating that its camouflaging ability was linked instead to allowing it to catch food, he added.

The WWF and environmentalists have warned that rapid deforestation on Borneo, where vast tracts of rainforest still remain, threatens to destroy chances of discovering more undiscovered species harbored there. **AFP**

## Bush slams US media over bank-data report

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush said it was "disgraceful" that the American news media had disclosed a secret CIA Treasury program to track millions of financial records in search of terrorist suspects. The White House accused The New York Times of breaking a long tradition of keeping wartime secrets.

"The fact that a newspaper disclosed it makes it harder to win this war on terror," Bush said Monday, leaning forward and jabbing his finger during a brief question-and-answer session with reporters in the Roosevelt Room.

The Times has defended its effort, saying publication has served America's public interest.

The newspaper, along with the Los Angeles Times and the Wall Street Journal, revealed last week that Treasury officials, beginning shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, had obtained access to an extensive international financial data base—the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, or Swift.

The New York Times late last year also dis-

closed that the National Security Agency had been conducting warrantless surveillance in the United States since 2002 of people with suspected al-Qaida ties.

"Some in the press, in particular The New York Times, have made the job of defending against further terrorist attacks more difficult by insisting on publishing detailed information about vital national security programs," Vice President Dick Cheney said in a speech at a political fundraising luncheon in Grand Island, Neb. **AP**

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## Larios' twin chances reduced to one

### BARE EYE



Recab  
Trinidad

(REMOTE: Manny Pacquiao was pissed off, the exact words used by Nick Giongco of the Bulletin, upon learning yesterday that reporters were still in danger of being dumped into the far-off upper level section for their job to cover the July 2 blockbuster at the Big Dome. While it's been a necessity for sportswriters to be clinically close to live action, the call of the day has been for binoculars. Which raises the suspicion that the main man in charge of media seat assignments, a quacking, up-tight, crop-headed former reporter, has entered into the business of selling powerful bifocals.)

BEFORE MEXICO'S OSCAR LARIOS could bare his taut torso and step into the ring on Monday, there were still two chances he could upset Manny Pacquiao and fully restore gladness about boxing in his country.

That chance has been reduced to one, only one.

The danger of Larios spearing Pacquiao with a chisel-sharp right straight to the chin, for a possible stoppage in the first half of the fight, has been greatly diminished.

At least, that was how it appeared after the public baring of the worth and might of both fighters for their July 2 Mano a Mano at the Araneta Coliseum.

Larios had suspiciously refused to spar in public in the press preview that was meant to allow a peep into the fighter's arsenal.

He could be hiding something, or he had nothing really dangerous to show.

But that's beside the point.

All Pacquiao had to do was routine gym work—spar, punch the mitts, shadow-box—to send the message it would be Larios who would be in great danger of crashing against the wall come Sunday noon at the Big Dome.

Pacquiao, in the process, displayed how it would be impossible to tag him with a clean shot to the chin, the sort that had floored Pacman at least three times before he could assume full stardom.

The other day, Larios handlers were overheard as saying they would exploit a secret Pacquiao weakness. It's odd, but the Mexicans referred to a looseness spotted during Pacquiao's fight against Juan Manuel Marquez.

Let's see. Pacquiao fought Marquez, whom he floored three times in the first round en route to a controversial draw, in May 2004 yet.

Larios handlers were clearly deluding themselves if they believed those old chunks in the Pacquiao armor would resurface inside the ring on Sunday.

If he hopes to frustrate the whole Filipino nation, Larios should work out a fight plan against the Pacquiao that had shamed and stopped his countryman, Erik Morales, earlier this year.

Sorry to inform the Larios camp, but they should prepare for a fully transformed warrior.

Pacquiao has hence metamorphosed into a complete fighter, who has shunned the old balled-up style that had made him an easy prey to sharp counter-punchers, like Marquez and Morales.

Of course, there's one last chance for Larios to trip Pacquiao.

This one won't be easy, but Larios could try his desperate best to survive expected early bombardment.

Larios did not look as though he had the required balance and solid rib railing for the tough job of pushing the fight close to the distance.

But if he succeeds in, say, staying on his feet in one piece until the seventh or eighth round, things could start to tilt in his favor.

Yes, Pacquiao, left with a shortened preparation period, could start losing steam by this time.

Pacquiao is, indeed, reporting to the fight like a multigear, perfectly primed-up race machine.

But, based on unavoidable limitations, it's an engine that could prove perfect only for dashes to a quick finish.

This should not be told at all, but conditioning coach Justine Fortune had confided to one media man back at Wild Card (in Hollywood) that Pacquiao's cardiovascular condition was only 80 percent fine when he left for Manila for the Larios fight.

Pacquiao, strong and sharp, cannot be expected to show up with a full tank on Sunday.

Larios should take it from there—if he has not crashed into the tragic dead-end yet.

By Marc Anthony Reyes  
and Salven L. Lagumbay

IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL AT THE PACQUIAO camp yesterday.

On top of Manny Pacquiao's checklist: Sharpening his right hook, working on body combinations and getting his favorite Cleto Reyes gloves.

The Filipino boxing hero's mentor, Freddie Roach, gave this information before shutting the door of the Abap Gym beneath thick acacia trees at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

For two hours, Pacquiao worked and sweated it out away from prying eyes as he geared up for his WBC International super-featherweight title showdown against Mexican Oscar Larios on Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

"We are working a little bit on body combinations," said Roach. "Just a little work today. Trying to slow down a few days leading to the fight. But you know Manny, he never slows down."

Pacquiao actually worked double time build-

ing up his stamina by running along Manila Baywalk at the crack of dawn yesterday.

Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez, on the other hand, bared that Roach and Pacquiao's manager, Shelly Finkel, had ordered the Mexico-made gloves for Mano A Mano.

Cleto Reyes gloves, known as the "punchers' gloves" due to its thin padding, was the same brand used by Pacquiao in his monumental 10-round knockout of Mexican legend Erik Morales in their rematch in Las Vegas last January.

Over at the Larios camp, the former super bantamweight titlist was nowhere to be found. On Monday, he was seen sweating it out at the gym specifically renovated for him by his sponsor hotel, the Discovery Suites.

The 29-year-old Larios honed up for a couple of hours inside the gym, called the Balance, on the fourth floor of the hotel where he also stayed last April to promote Mano A Mano.

"He didn't have any specific request," said the hotel's director for marketing, Gemma Batron.



PACQUIAO: No slowing down AUGUST DELA CRUZ

She said that the Larios

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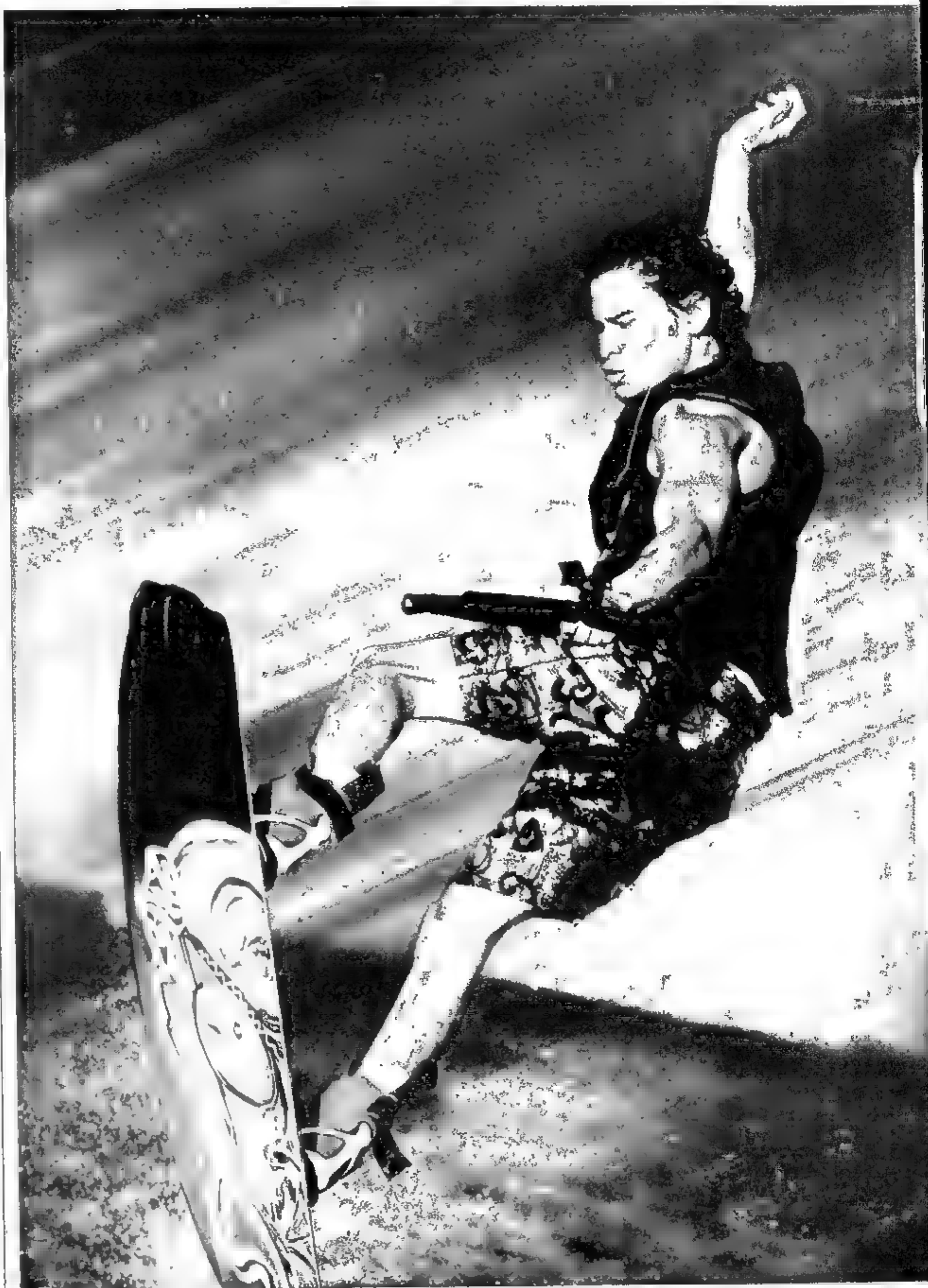
Italy's Mauro Bet

Council International

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# Government Cigarette smoking is da



# Pacquiao

...os entourage was housed in  
...e, one of the hotel's finest.  
...r didn't have a boxing ring  
...his rope moves. The Mexi-  
...up for his scheduled work-  
...rde Gym yesterday.  
...ts believe that Larios will  
...t pay in the July 2 clash.  
...he 122-lb title to Israel  
...al knockout last December.  
...ss is likely to take its toll on  
...acquiao's power punches.  
...enthusiast Cris Aquino will  
...flag bearer on fight day. Re-  
...ucky charm, Aquino holds  
...w record on Pacquiao fights  
...he RP colors  
...n, chair of the World Boxing  
...who will co-supervise Sun-  
...uled to arrive in Manila on  
...supervise the officia. weigh-  
...Discovery Suites.

## Ekwe-Espinas matchup spices up Lions-Dolphins encounter today

(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)  
2 p.m.—San Sebastian vs Mapua (Srs)  
4 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (Srs)  
6 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (Jrs)

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"Whoever coaches a team which plays like that will surely get hypertension," said PCU coach Joel Dualan, the replacement for Junel Baculi who resigned due to high blood pressure.

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Ferdinand had 23 points, 12 rebounds, four blocks and two steals, and Reyes contributed 16 points, 11 rebounds and two steals for the Greenies.

The Greenies touched off the rout by limiting the Squires to just nine points in the first quarter. **Marc Anthony Reyes**

The scores (Jrs)

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LETTRAN 69—San Jose 18, Rosales 17, Wong 13, Alas 11, Kils 11, Alas Kay 10, Munsayac 0, Ruiz 0, Bagait 0, Cruz 0, Gonzalez 0, Javier 0. **Quarters:** 22-9, 39-32, 62-51, 79-69

## PBA levies P500,000 fine on Red Bull

From page A25

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"They'll (Giants) have to play three back-to-the-wall games and it's tough. Not impossible but very tough," said Cone.

## 3-way race for Asian F3 team crown

WHILE FILIPINO RACING STAR TYSON SY IS comfortably ahead in the chase for the overall driver's championship, three squads are locked in a tight race for the team title as the Asian Formula Three Series gears up for the next three rounds at the Zhuhai International Circuit in Guangdong, China.

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"The race for the team championship is fast heating up," said AF3 Corp. chair Ed Peña. "We expect this race to go down the wire, all the way to the final rounds in Batangas."

The 18-year-old Sy leads the driver's race with 87 points anchored on a sweep of the first three races at the Batangas Racing Circuit last May.

Battistini, 29, is running second with 56, while another 18-year-old Filipino star, Dado Peña, and Jackson, 17, share third place with 52 points each. Winslow, who edged Sy by a point for third place overall last year, is fifth with 42 points.

Race enthusiasts can log on to [www.asianf3.net](http://www.asianf3.net) and [www.plidunypad.net](http://www.plidunypad.net) for updates on the driver's and team championships.

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Soeprapto, last year's Promotions class winner, is running sixth in the driver's championship with 34 points, followed by Irishman John O'Hara of Aran Racing (23), Bagoes Hermanto of R&W Team Indonesia Joson F3 (17), Filipino Pepon Marave of Shell Heix Kineuc PCSO (11) and Cheong Loumeng of Team Goddard (9).

### SPORTSWATCH

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Empire Lady (6)  
Royal Rose (5)  
Playing Cool (1)  
Collective Dreams

Race 2—(Penta/Or/Tr)—  
Blue (2), El Cid (3), Lady BeGood (9),  
Kalashnikov (8), Maglow (6)

Race 3—(Or/Tr)—Scarab (2), Classic Royale (7),  
Western Legend (1), Truly Impressive (3)

Race 4—(Penta/Or/Tr)—West N Wind (3), Miss Bobon  
(4), Pirouette (8), Yoshinari (9), First Of All (11)

Race 5—(Or/Tr)—Tiger Rally/Friendly Ventura (1),  
Bunkor Buster (5), Dana Nona (5), Native Prece (3)

Race 6—(Penta/Or/Tr)—Full of Fury (1), Sunrise (4),  
All At All (2), Uncle Buck (9), Reporter (7)

Race 7—(Penta/Or/Tr)—Well Noted (7), Cig's Gold (8),  
Dondon's Entry (5), My Sheikh (1), Lady Tycoon (3)

Race 8—(Super 5/Or/Tr)—Speed Bullet (12), Top of  
D'Line (3), Pammamunlasm (1), Tolo to (10), Es-  
pirukin (5), Irish Connection (7)



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Pacquiao

his entourage was housed in one of the hotel's finest. He didn't have a boxing ring for his rope moves. The Mexicans were up for his scheduled work at the Gym yesterday. It is believed that Larios will pay in the July 2 clash. The 122-lb title to Israel was knocked out last December. It is likely to take its toll on Pacquiao's power punches. The enthusiast Cms Aquino will be a flag-bearer on fight day. Reluctant charm, Aquino holds a record on Pacquiao fights in the RP colors. The chair of the World Boxing Union who will co-supervise the event is expected to arrive in Manila on Sunday to supervise the official weigh-in and Discovery Suites.

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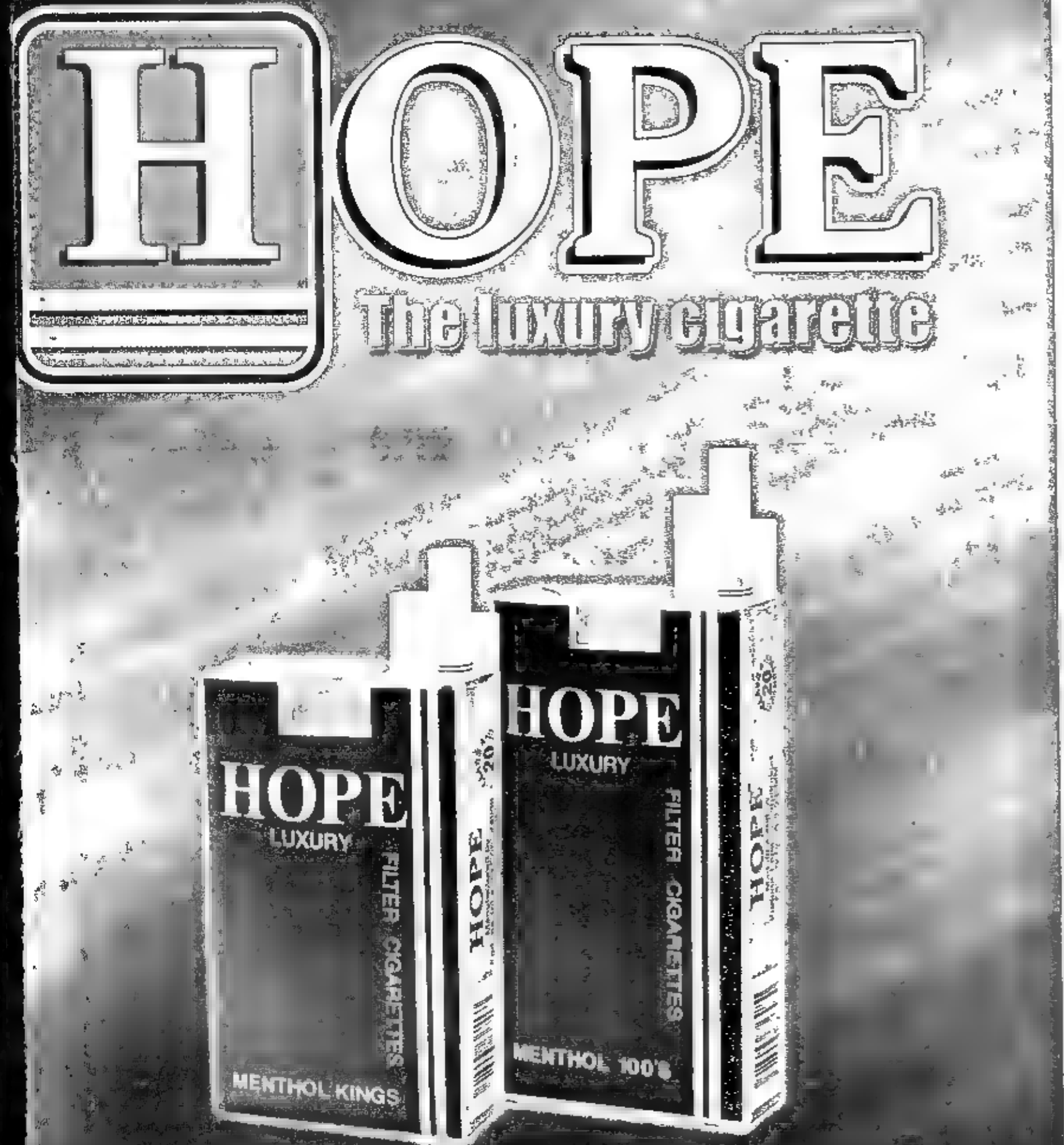
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FIFA WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPUS  
7 a.m.—Italy vs. Australia (replay @ 11 p.m.)  
4 p.m.—Switzerland vs. Ukraine (replay tomorrow @ 2 a.m.)

# SPORTS

## WORLD CUP

# Ukraine, Italy set q'final showdown



UKRAINE players celebrate on the field after their 3-0 penalty kick shootout win over Switzerland. The Ukrainians will face the Italians, who advanced by nipping Australia with a penalty by Francesco Totti (below), in the last eight.

**BERLIN—ITALY NEEDED A PENALTY KICK TO EARN A SPOT in the World Cup quarterfinals. Ukraine needed a shootout.**

Francesco Totti scored from the penalty spot in injury time Monday to lead Italy over Australia, 1-0, while Ukraine beat Switzerland, 3-0, in a shootout after a dull 0-0 draw.

Italy will face the Ukrainians, who are playing in the World Cup for the first time, in the last eight on Friday in Hamburg.

Totti, who came off the bench in the 75th minute, took the penalty after Lucas Neill brought down Fabio Grosso with only 12 seconds of injury time left to play.

Italy was reduced to 10 men in the 51st minute when Marco Materazzi was sent off for bringing down Marco Bresciano just outside the area.

Australia dominated possession in Kaiserslautern after Materazzi's red card, but rarely created good scoring opportunities.

Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon twice saved shots from Scott Chipperfield and, with the Australians in control, Italy coach Marcello Lippi gambled by sending on Totti—who is still regaining fitness after a long-term leg injury.

In the 89th, Australia midfielder Tim Cahill had another chance from Bresciano's corner, but he headed over the crossbar.

In the first half, Italy striker Luca Toni nearly scored four times before the team was reduced to 10 men.

"I was never worried because there was still extra time to play and penalties," Lippi said.

"This was a game that really had everything.

"In the first half, we didn't allow even one shot on goal—not even from long range. In the second, we struggled but we gave away very little and then there was this great play by Grosso."

The game appeared to be headed for extra time when Grosso cut in from the left, beat one defender and then went down under a challenge from Neill.

Spanish referee Luis Medina pointed to the spot.

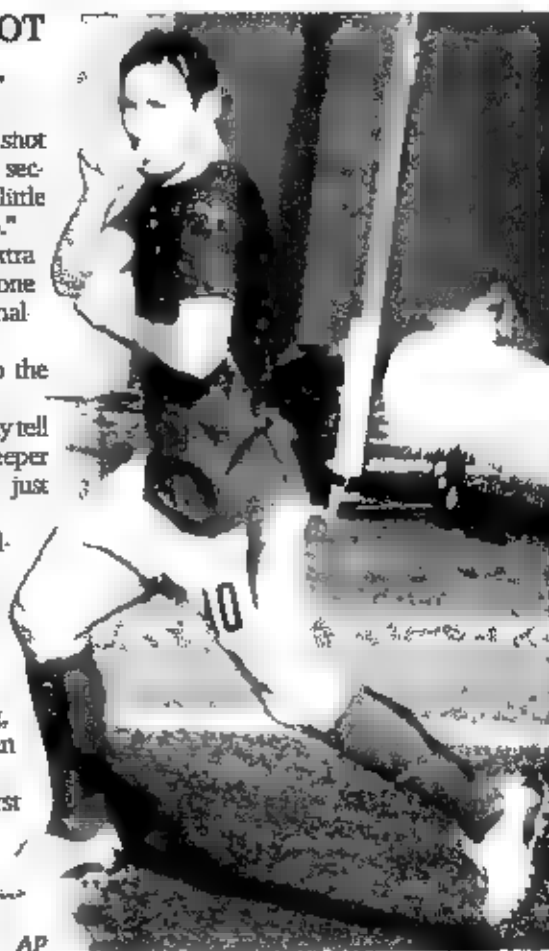
"I saw only one replay and I couldn't really tell if it was a penalty or not," Australia goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer said. "Essentially, we just couldn't score. We are very disappointed."

In Cologne, Oleg Gusev scored the deciding penalty after 120 scoreless minutes.

Andriy Shevchenko took the first penalty for Ukraine but Swiss goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbuehler dived to his right to save.

Artem Milevskiy gave Ukraine the lead by chipping in with the goalkeeper diving, and Serhiy Rebrov added another with an easy goal.

Marco Streller took Switzerland's first penalty, which Oleksander Shovkovsky saved. Tranquillo Barnetta then hit the crossbar and Rucardo Cabanas' shot was saved, setting up Gusev for the winning kick.



AP

## Hingis, rain make Wimbledon return

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—Martina Hingis played at Wimbledon for the first time since 2001, and it was as though she never left. Those crafty strokes. Well-timed net rushes. And rain.

Ah, yes, rain. Day 1 at the All England Club began with sprinkles that delayed the start of the tournament for an hour. After about 30 minutes of action Monday, time enough for Hingis to win the first set against Olga Savchuk of Ukraine, 6-2, rain returned and halted play for good.

"I don't like Wimbledon," said

Hingis' mother and coach, Melanie Molitor. She sighed, motioned toward the sky and added, "The weather."

A drizzle grew to a downpour by mid-afternoon, when organizers began postponing matches. Only 17 of 64 scheduled matches got underway, with zero completed. Because of the backlog, some players originally slated to debut Tuesday—including defending champion Venus



HINGIS

Williams and No. 1 seeded Amelie Mauresmo—won't get on court until Wednesday, at the earliest.

Tuesday's forecast calls for afternoon showers.

Rain at Wimbledon hardly is surprising, of course, but southern England has been dealing with a drought that prompted authorities to tell people not to water their gardens.

With thick cloud cover, defending

champion Roger Federer was the first player on Centre Court, and what an entrance he made. He strode out wearing a cream-colored blazer. Something with a hood would have been more appropriate.

Bidding for what would be a record 42nd consecutive victory on grass, Federer started against Richard Gasquet of France with an ace. He held serve, then broke Gasquet, who appeared tentative on the slippery grass.

Federer won the set, 6-3, and was about to serve trailing, 2-1, in the second when the rain returned. AP

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## Yeng: An expression of frustration

JUST BEFORE I WROTE THIS PIECE yesterday, I sent a text message to Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico and PBA officials supervisor Perry Martinez.

I asked for their comments on last Sunday's officiating. To make sure it got to the recipients, I texted them the message twice.

I got a quick response from Yeng and Perry. Yeng said he was in a meeting at that moment, but promised to call as soon as it was over. I realized that he must be at the PBA Commissioner's office where he and Red Bull team manager/governor Tony Chua were summoned to appear that day.

I was a bit surprised at Perry Martinez's reply though.

"What officiating?" he asked. I know I didn't need to, but I told him it was the one where Red Bull almost walked out of the game against San Miguel Beer.

I don't know whether or not he recalled the incident or if he was in denial, but I never heard from him again yesterday.

I didn't hear from Jong at all. Obviously, it's a very sensitive issue.

Calling barely a few minutes before my deadline, Yeng said he and Tony were asked by PBA commissioner Noti Eala to justify the near-walkout Red Bull had staged last Sunday.

"It wasn't just one call, or two, or three, it wasn't even a game. It was a confluence of events," explained Yeng, who pointed out that the walkout was "an expression of frustration."

To the PBA fans who have been asking why we did it, I advise them to watch the game on tape and evaluate. Ang tingin ko at the time, we were getting a very raw deal and we

### IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis



couldn't do anything about it. If you were in my shoes what would you have done?" Yeng asked.

Yeng expects a verdict from the PBA commissioner either today or tomorrow. He said he is expecting the worst.

The Ateneo Blue Eagles didn't have much time for rest and recreation during the last summer vacation. They were too busy preparing for the coming UAAP season, which opens this July.

"We travelled as far as Cebu and Davao to compete in three different tune-up tournaments," Ateneo coach Norman Black said. The tune-up games gave Norman and team manager Paolo Trillo reason to be optimistic.

"This crew is very, very hardworking, the most hardworking batch I've ever handled. They not only play hard, they also study hard," said Norman who launched a long-term, nationwide player recruitment program with Paolo, which the academe can continue even under a different coach.

Meantime, the focus is on the six remaining opponents in the UAAP, especially FEU and the University of the East, who beat the Eagles in the recent Father Martin's Cup.

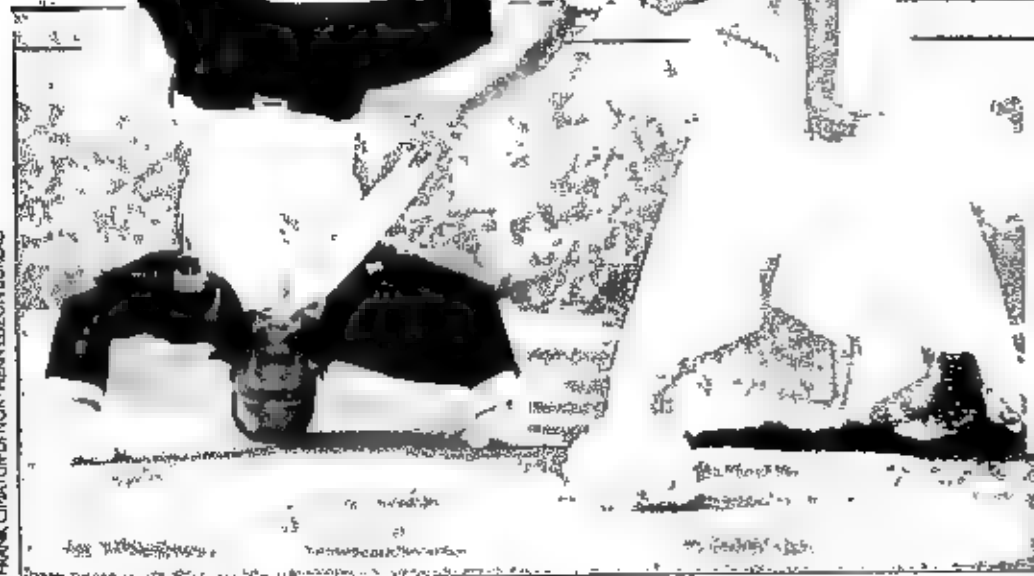
For Norman, the absence of rival De la Salle in the 2006 UAAP season has no effect whatsoever—positive or negative—in the Blue Eagles' training and preparations.



# ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Page/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr\_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph



## INSIDE

### Just married

And just had a lot of topuy, or native rice wine. That's probably why the groom, Javier "Javy" Olives is standing on his head. His bride, kooky in Chucks, is Session Road Band vocalist Hannah Romawac. Story in Rushes, Page A2/3.

### Kissing cousins

Industry bigwigs Lily Monteverde of Regal and Wilson Tieng of Solar unwittingly stole the show from birthday celebrant Ruffa Gutierrez on Sunday... just by saying hello. Actually, they said more, but they spoke in a "secret" language later identified as Fookien! Page A2/5.



## 'First row, thank you!'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.  
Metro

JUNJUN, 20, A GRADUATING NURSING student, said he was prepared to quit school if he made it to the finals.

Charlene, 26, a salesperson, had given up a full day's pay even if she only had P20 in her pocket.

Malou, 24, an accounting officer at a supermarket chain, had taken a leave, telling office mates she was applying for another job.

They had a single goal.

For seven hours on Saturday, the three of them—along with about 4,300 other dreamers—waited in the crowded and narrow corridors of SM Manila, suffering the intense noontime heat. They were drenched in sweat, their legs aching. Still, they were raring to flash their sweetest smiles.

It was the first audition day for the "Pinoy

INQUIRER  
reporters  
audition  
for TV  
reality  
talent  
search

Dream Academy" and the next season of "Pinoy Big Brother"—ABS-CBN talent searches.

When finally they stood in front of a lone judge, the dream they shared was shattered in less than 30 seconds.

From the thousands who showed up, only about 100 would go through to the next round.

\*\*\*  
We were there, too—Margaux, a fellow reporter, and myself—never mind that it was our

FIRST ROW/ A2-2

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Dr. Reynaldo David, a prominent cosmetic surgeon and owner of Enhance Cosmetic Surgery and Skin Care Center, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 12, 2006 at Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club. Beside him is his special guest, his celebrity model/endorser Francine Prieto. Dr. David is admired for his excellence in the field of cosmetic surgery, and has many satisfied patients including celebrities and models. His clinics are located at SM North Edsa Annex Bldg. Basement level and SM Fairview Lower Ground Floor with tel. nos. 920-9205 and 937-6498 respectively.

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## 2ND WEEK!

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## IN CINEMAS TODAY

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# Was that a wedding picture or what?

BAGUIO CITY—YOU CAN TAKE THE Session Road Band out of Session Road but you can't take the road out of the band.

When vocalist and rhythm guitarist Hannah Romawac married long-time boyfriend Javier "Javy" Olives—was that a wedding picture on page A2/1?—on June 16, her brothers Chavi (drummer, band leader) and JV (percussionist), lead guitarist Coy Placido, bassist Jal Taguibao, and keyboardist Jesse Hoover—plus friends and rela-

tives—tried to make the whole-day event as close to home as possible.

The wedding at the St. Joseph Church was kept very private, said Perdie Balanag, an old friend of the couple's. "Their theme song is 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow,'" Balanag said.

During the reception at the Baguio Country Club, only tapuy (native rice wine) was served with the festive food. Ignorant dancers in G-strings and topas (native skirt) "blessed" the jars of wine, beat the gongs and led the dancing.

But the tapuy was served in crystal glasses, not in the usual coconut shell.

Another local band, Rewind, played reggae and R&B to the sound of the gongs.

When Hannah danced with her ailing father, Tony Romawac—the "funniest shaman" in his younger days—there wasn't a dry eye in the hall.

The groom was accompanied by a Session Road Band concert.

Frank Camata, PDI North-

ern Luzon Bureau

## Back to partying

LORNA Tolentino seems to have lost the eight pounds she gained while taking care of her famous "patient," husband Rudy "Daboy" Fernandez. She earlier explained the weight gain, thus: "We ate together."

The two were spotted at Ruffa Gutierrez's birthday party last weekend. Check out their photo here with Philip Salvador and Eddie Gutierrez. Looking good!

## Dockers Award

FILIPINO filmmaker Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" recently won the Dockers First Feature Award at the 30th Frameline, or San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film Festival.

The award came with a cash prize of \$10,000.

Ellen is seen at left (coat in arm) with former classmates now based in the Bay Area, and some gay revelers.

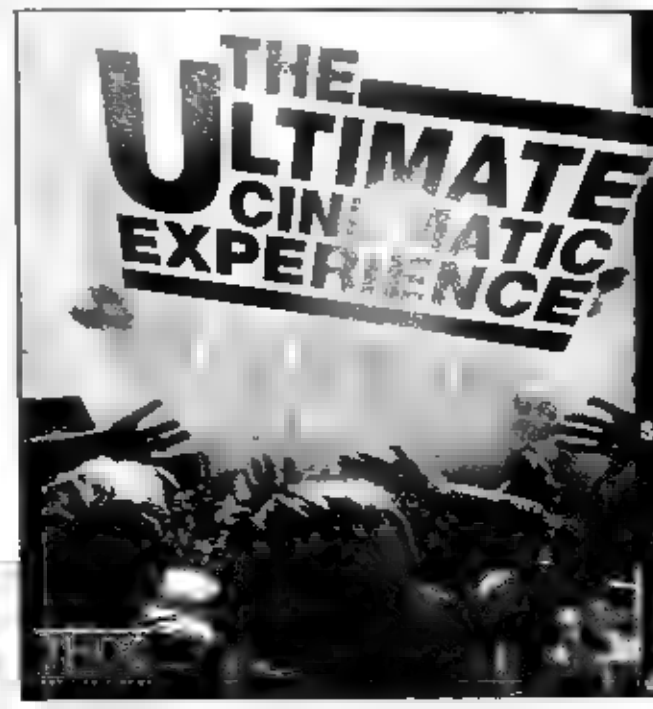
## Not for

Herbie's "Mga Pusang Gala" recently won the Dockers First Feature Award at the 30th Frameline, or San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Film Festival.



**PARTY MOOD.** Eddie Gutierrez, Rudy Fernandez, Lorna Tolentino and Philip Salvador.

RUDY ESPERAS



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## OPENING TODAY

### Superman Returns

Stars Brandon Routh, Kate Bosworth, Eva Marie Saint, Parker Posey, Kevin Spacey

Directed by Bryan Singer

He's back. But as David Letterman pointed out, Routh "isn't from where Superman returned." The scriptwriters' answer: "He's been away for five years searching for the remains of his home planet."

The resurrection of the icon on the silver screen is a tricky proposition. Fortunately for fans, the task was given to Singer, famous for masterminding the smooth transi-

tion of the "X-Men" franchise from comic book to film. Reviews have all been raves, so far.

David Ansen of Newsweek:

"From the start of this gorgeously crafted epic, you can feel Singer has real love and respect for [Superman], as well as a reverence for the 1978 version [directed by Richard Donner and topbilled by Christopher Reeve]. Next to Singer's champagne, most recent superhero adventure movies are barely sparking order."

A dissenting opinion is offered by Owen Gleiberman of Entertainment Weekly: "Wish [the movie] were more original and better paced."



A live-action adaptation from the popular Manga and hit anime series.

## DRIFTING TO VICTORY



Shawn Yue Jay Chou  
Edison Chen Anne Suzuki  
Chapman To Jordan Chan  
Anthony Wong

**OPENS JULY 5**

AT THE CINEMAS				At the Activity Center			
<p><b>G1</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SCARY MOVIE 4 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS</p>				<p><b>GLORIETTA</b> Philippine Retailers Association's Retail Careers &amp; Jobs Fair June 28 to 29 2006</p>			
<p><b>G4</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3F SUPERMAN RETURNS 1 15, 4 30, 7 45, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS</p>				<p><b>TOWN</b> Gary V Live in concert 1 July 1 2006</p>			
<p><b>GB1</b> 1 KINSEY 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS</p>				<p><b>AYALA CENTER</b> Wellness Revo June 30 2006</p>			
<p><b>GB3</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS</p>				<p><b>MARKET! MARKET!</b> Sony Summer Pleasures 2006 June 19 to July 12 2006</p>			
<p><b>ATC</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 SUPERMAN RETURNS 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS</p>				<p><b>Onstage</b> Jazz and More feat. Mon David w/ Bituin Escalante July 8, 2006 For inquiries, pls. call Ticketworld - 9915610 or 4260183</p>			
<p><b>ACC</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SUPERMAN RETURNS 3 THE LAKE HOUSE 4 SCARY MOVIE 4</p>				<p><b>Ayala MUSEUM</b> Ode To The Pasig River June 27 to August 27, 2006 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org</p>			
<p><b>M2</b> 1 SUPERMAN RETURNS 2 SCARY MOVIE 4 3 SCARY MOVIE 4 4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 5 SUPERMAN RETURNS</p>							

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3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	9 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	10 THE NUN

## ERMITA

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3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3	6 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	7 THE NUN

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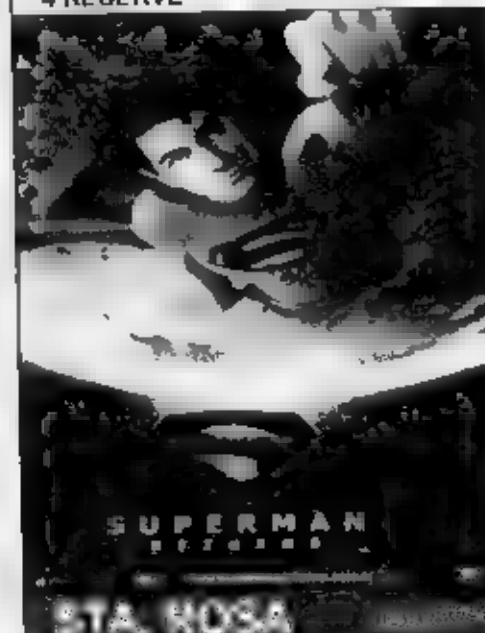
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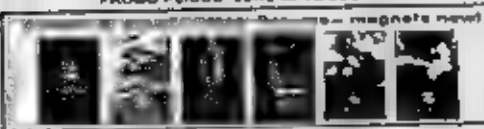
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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 THE INSIDE MAN

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3 THE INSIDE MAN	3 SUBMERGED
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 THE INSIDE MAN

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4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
	6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 SUPERMAN RETURNS	1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
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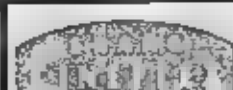
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## A2-4

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006



LAUREN Dyogi, right, with "PBB'S" Richard Reynante. ROSEL ROTONI

## 'First row, thank you!'

From page A2-2

Finally, he spoke: "First row, thank you very much."

The next moment, we were being escorted down the stage and out of the audition area.

That was that.

Seven hours down the drain.

We were not even asked to sing... or introduce ourselves.

Wasn't this a singing competition?

Small consolation

We would get some explanations later.

"It is difficult to say

{what exactly we are looking for}," Dyogi

told Margaux and me, as INQUIRER reporters.

He continued:

"There is a certain personality... even if he or she just stands there... we can see, with just the facial expression,

the body language, that he or she will do very well on TV"

Those picked from the other groups were asked to come back on stage after the heart-broken

dreamers had left. Some were asked to describe themselves.

Some were even asked to sing!

The girls stood smiling, like in a beauty pageant, hands on their waists. Again, Dyogi picked a few more lucky ones to go through.

Again he explained—or at least he tried to: "It is not just being good-looking. You have to have a certain appeal on TV.

You should be charismatic."

"That means I don't have charisma?" I pushed.

Dyogi laughed. He said he chose different types. I looked and saw a common thread: they were all good-looking.

The girls wore sexy clothes; the boys were in body-hugging shirts as well.

The audition was over by 6 p.m. Thousands had gone home, perhaps to resume

dreaming.

On Friday, the next audition will be held in SM Mariiao, Bulacan.

After seven hours of waiting, we were not even asked to introduce ourselves

dreaming.

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## 'Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?' Con artists, beware

QTV 11 HAS MADE A NAME FOR ITSELF as a channel with some innovative programs. A number of them have turned out to be duds, others have veered away from their original forms and intent, but some have continued to make a difference on the local boob tube and that's all to the good.

We hope the same thing happens to QTV11's latest show "Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?" which we caught last Tuesday, June 20 at 8:30 p.m.

The show serves a valuable purpose because it warns viewers about the many ways that crafty and devious con artists think up to part others from their money or possessions.

Hosted by Leo Martinez and Maureen Larrazabal, the program's first telecast focused on scams involving cellphones and other electronic equipment and services.

That was a savvy thrust because electronics are high on many people's awareness list, so viewer interest in the initial telecast was more or less assured.

We trust that viewers took note of the many scams related to cell phones and bogus e-loading stations, so they won't be as easily victimized from here on in.

Martinez, in his Batangueño persona, is a good choice as program host for this sort of show because of his no-nonsense and *maka* character and appeal.

Have you been scammed? You may want to let the program know about it, so that the con job can be analyzed, counter-moves are plotted out, and viewers are warned against falling for similar schemes.

For our part, we're pretty clueless about other folks' hidden agendas, so we've been victimized a number of times. Once, a friend asked us to help her make her mark in the pyramiding

### VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



world—and, despite our "friendship," we ended up kissing our "help" good-bye.

Another time, another "friend" borrowed money from us, and offered some "diamonds" as "collateral." Well, the gems turned out to be as bogus as our fair-weather "friend."

One other "friend" wanted to start an egg-selling business (of all things), and we gamely provided part of the capital. As expected, we ended up—with egg on our face.

Here's an unusual but hopefully instructive series of events: When we were directing a film, a movie worker asked us for a "loan." As expected, it was never paid.

Some months later, we acted in a play, and the movie worker showed up at the theater to ask for another "loan."

Thus happened several times more, with all of his appearances timed to the opening of the latest production we were involved in, either as actor or director.

What was the "logic" here? Belatedly, we figured out that our occasional visitors thought that we earned a lot from each new production, so we would feel more generous and accede to his unimpeachable request for a "loan."

He was wrong, of course. We weren't being generous, we were just a soft

touch. Plus, the sums he "borrowed" weren't all that huge, so not much harm done...

—There's a lesson in there somewhere, and we sure hope we've learned it.

### Mowelfund Golf Cup

AT 8 a.m. on June 30, the first Mowelfund Golf Cup tees off at the Intramuros Club (former Muni Golf Links). Mowelfund, the Filipino film industry's welfare foundation for movie workers, together with Talk About Marketing, is holding the celebrity golf tournament to raise badly needed funds to provide for the welfare needs of its 4,500 members.

Confirmed participants from show biz include Vic Sotto, Francis Magalona, Michael V. Anjo Yllana, Maru Sotto, Joey Marquez, Johnny Delgado, Danny Javier, Buboy Garovillo, Raymond Bagatsing, Edgar Mortiz, Bearwin Meily, Noel Trinidad, Gary Lising, Christine Dayrit, Lally Laurel Trinidad, Paulina Sotto and Nadia Montenegro.

From media—Jun Nicdao, Ray Langit, Rino Basilio, Ricky Alegre, Manny Lutzon, Diego Cagahastian.

Plus Antonio Abacan, Francis Paderna, Koichi Watanabe, Cerge Remonde, Robert Rivera, Chiz Escudero, Nelson Cheng, Ben Lista, Gary Vasquez, and Manolo and Roger Rivas.

Tito Sotto is the tournament chair, with Pat Roman as consultant. Everyone is enjoined to support the Mowelfund Golf Cup, because our movie workers really need the help and support. Call 7271961, 4135268 or 9363879. Mowelfund is headed by the creative and resourceful Boots Anson-Roa.

## Mother Lily & Tieng kiss and make up

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

### LITERALLY

Regal Entertainment executive producer Lily Monteverde and Solar Entertainment president and chief executive officer Wilson Tieng "kissed and made up" at Ruffa Gutierrez's birthday party in Le Soufflé Rockwell Makati last Sunday.

The term "kiss and make up" in fact came from Monteverde, who told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview that the reconciliation was "hulog ng langit (heaven sent)."

She described her reaction. "Para akong nabunutan ng tinit sa dibdib (Like a thorn was pulled out of my chest)."

Jun Lahin, Gutierrez's personal assistant, said everyone was surprised "They suddenly hugged each other... and hugged! Then they started speaking in Chinese. I looked around for a translator!"

### Touching

Tieng confirmed the account. "She approached our table and apologized for being emotional. I told her I had already forgotten the incident. I was so touched by her gesture that, although she was talking to me in English, I responded in the Pookien dialect. The cameramen were telling us: 'Mag-English naman kayo.'"

Monteverde added, "I'm very happy that we have solved that problem."

In January, Tieng almost sued Monteverde over a misunderstanding during the Metro Manila Film Festival awards. She had chided Tieng for giving "biased" comments to the INQUIRER for a story published on Jan. 5.

"My family was traumatized by what happened," Tieng recounted. "But I continued

communicating with her husband Remy and their children Dondon and Roselle."

Tieng is a member of the executive and selection committees of the MMFF.

In spite of their disagreement, he said, "I never voted against Regal [entries]."

As proof, he pointed out that Monteverde's film outfits have four out of the 10 entries in this

year's festival.

Of the ceasefire, Monteverde said, "Life is beautiful."

At Sunday's party, she found the time and wits to put together a new movie inspired by the US TV hit "Desperate Housewives," to be directed by Eric Quizon and starring the beauties seated at her table—Dawn Zulueta, Gretchen Barretto and Pops Fernandez—and Ruffa, the birthday girl.



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Cinema 3™ - 9:15 PM, 4:30, 7:45, 10:30  
Cinema 4™ - 12:15 PM, 3:30, 6:45, 10:00  
Cinema 5 - 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 6:15, 9:30

**GREENBELT 3**  
Cinema 1™ - 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45, 12:00  
Cinema 2 - 1:35 PM, 4:50, 8:05, 11:20  
Cinema 3™ - 12:00 PM, 3:15, 6:30, 9:45  
Cinema 4™ - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 7:00, 10:15  
Cinema 5™ - 11:30 AM, 2:45 PM

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Cinema 1 - 12:00 PM, 3:15 PM, 6:30 PM, 9:45  
Cinema 2 - 12:45 PM, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30  
**GREENBELT 1**  
Cinema 3 - 11:00 AM, 2:15 PM, 5:30, 8:45  
**ALABANG TOWN CENTER**  
Cinema 1 (R140) - 12:30 PM, 3:45, 6:00, 9:15  
Cinema 2 - 12:00 PM, 3:15 PM, 6:30, 9:45  
Cinema 3 - 1:00 PM, 4:15, 7:30, 10:45  
Cinema 4 - 1:30 PM, 4:45, 8:00, 11:15

**MARKET! MARKET!**  
Cinema 1 - 11:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00, 8:00  
Cinema 2 - 12:00 PM, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00  
Cinema 3 - 11:15 AM, 2:30 PM, 5:30, 8:30

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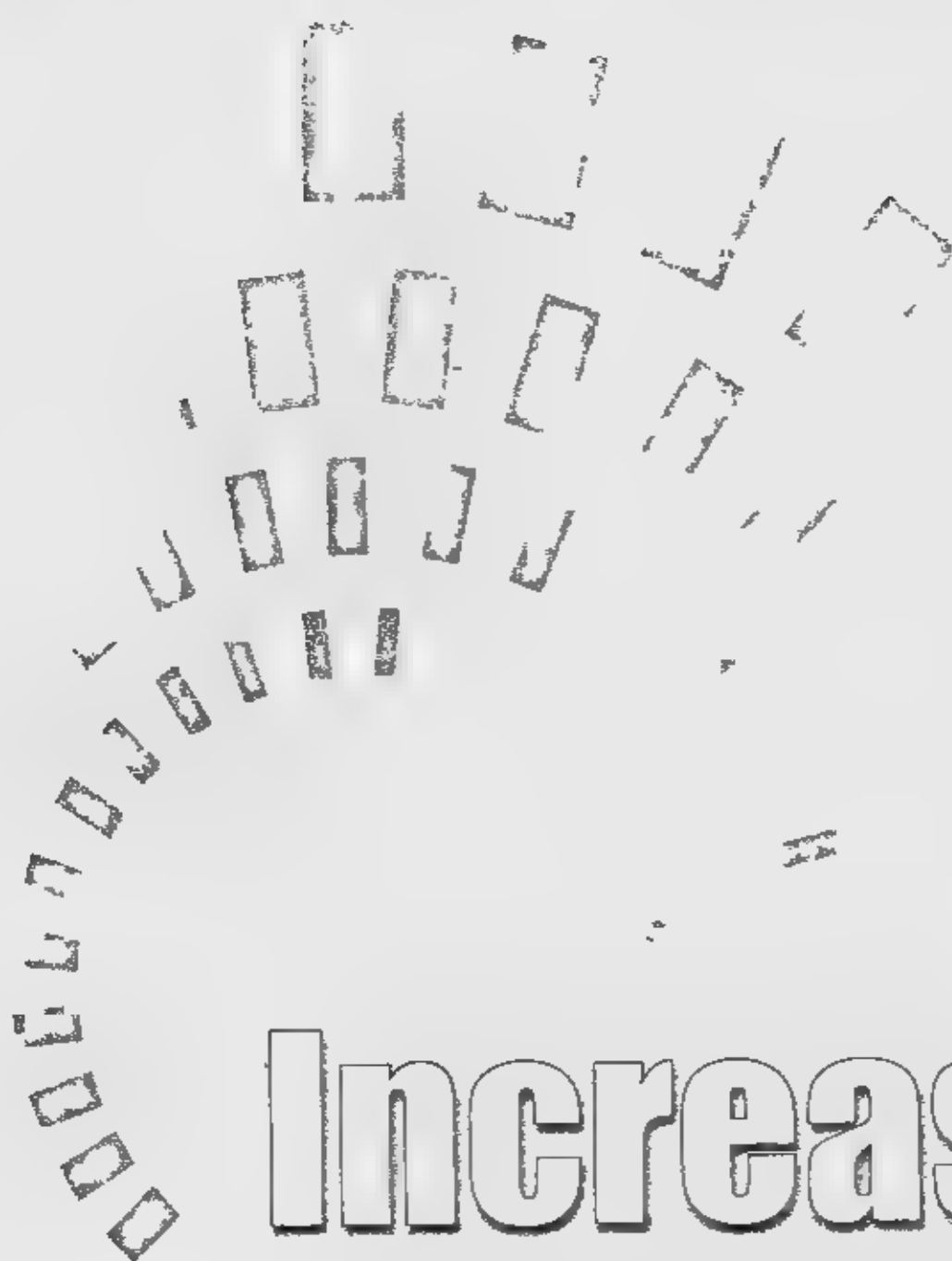
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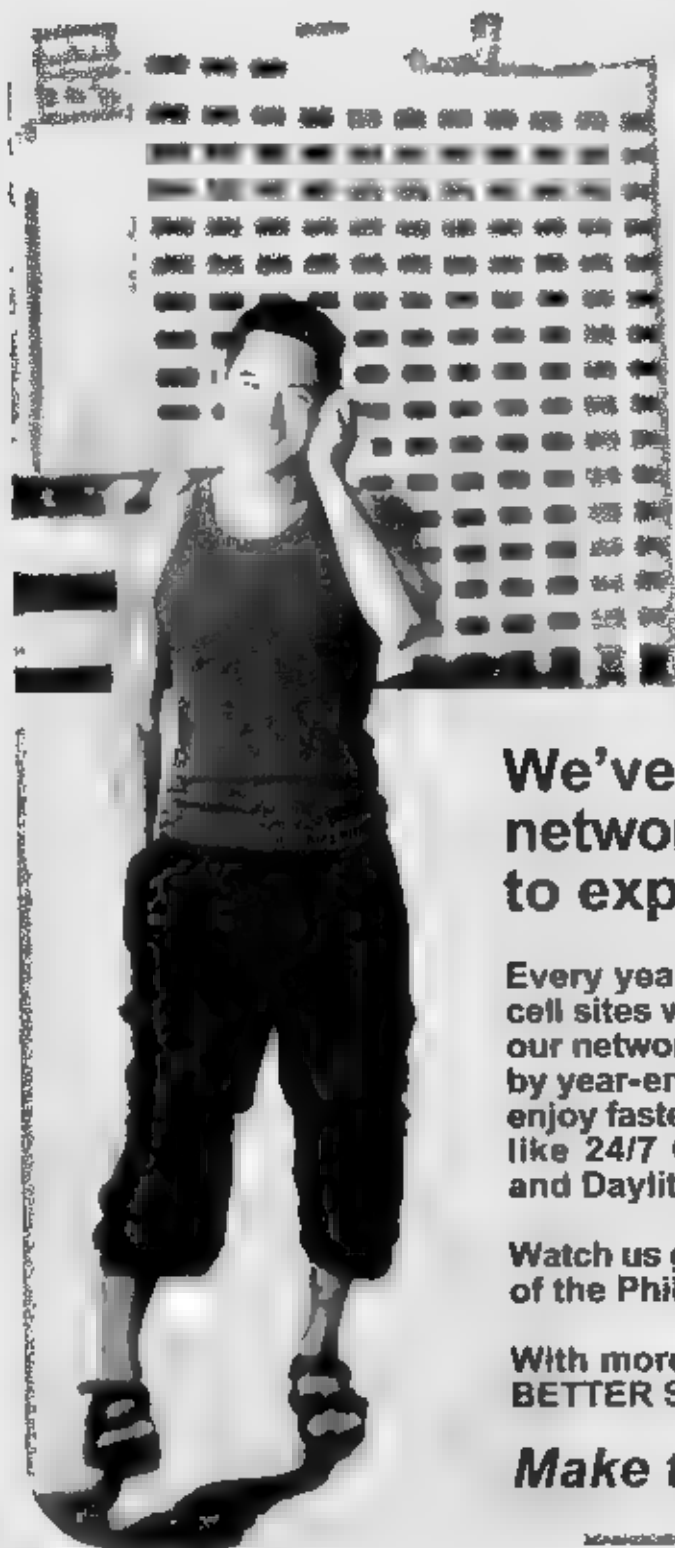
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WHAT'S INSIDE

**Yuchengco shakeout** /B3

**Palawan eyes P2-B medical center** /B7

# BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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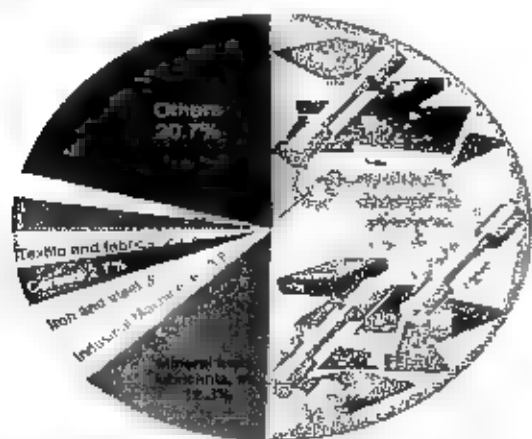
## Imports up 7.4% in April

### INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

**Total imports up 7.4 percent to \$4.42 billion (April 2006, in US dollars)**

Electronic products made up half of the total imports for April 2006, totaling \$2.23 billion, a 18.9 percent growth from the \$1.098-billion figure last year.



Sources: National Statistics Office  
Kate V. Pedrosio PDI Research

## Peso closes at year's low of 53.46 to \$1

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE PESO YESTERDAY DIPPED to 53.46 against the dollar, its weakest closing for this year, ahead of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' and US Federal Reserve's separate monetary policy meetings this week.

Currency traders said expectations of a quarter-percentage point increase in the Fed's rate to 5.25 percent alongside the likeli-

hood that the BSP would keep its own overnight borrowing rate at 7.5 percent weighed down the local currency.

At the Philippine Dealing System yesterday, the local currency opened at the intra-day high of 53.42 and finished near the intra-day low of 53.47 to the dollar. Volume traded amounted to \$331.5 million.

The closing rate of 53.46 was the peso's weakest since hitting

PESO/B3

## Drop in manufacturing output baffles economists

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S IMPORTS ROSE 7.4 PERCENT IN April to \$4.42 billion as electronics firms started building up raw-material inventories to meet the increasing global demand for electronics products.

Electronics imports, accounting for about half or \$2.23 billion of the total import bill in April, are mostly composed of raw materials for finished electronic products sold as exports.

According to the National Statistics Office, imports for the month brought the total for January to April to \$15.59 billion, or 6.4 percent higher than the \$14.81 billion in the same period last year.

With exports for the four-month period at \$14.81 billion, the country's balance of trade stood at a deficit of \$780 million. The latest trade-deficit figure was better than the \$1.85 billion a year ago.

An official of the Semiconductor

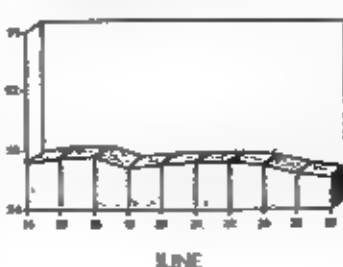
and Electronics Industry of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) told the Inquirer that their member-firms expected robust export sales this year given the increasing demand from Brazil, India and China. The growth in imports of raw materials was therefore necessary to cover the expected growth in global demand.

Aside from electronics, imports of textile, yarn and fabrics likewise grew by 20.7 percent to \$117.74 million from \$97.54 million a year ago.

The NSO said other imports for April included mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$541.86 million), industrial ma-

IMPORTS/B2

### CURRENCIES



JUNE

### PESO-DOLLAR RATE

**P 53.46 = \$**

As of 5 p.m., June 27, 2006

**Y 116.23 = \$**

As of 5 p.m., June 27, 2006

**GOLD: \$590.08-590.50**

per ounce Hong Kong, June 27, 2006

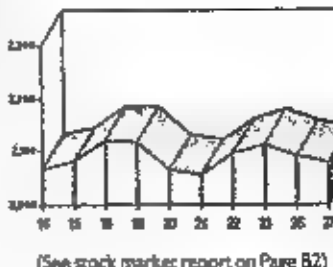
### STOCK MARKET

#### Shares continue to weaken

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.54-PERCENT LOWER yesterday, extending losses as investors stayed on the sidelines waiting for an expected US interest rate increase later this week, dealers said.

They said there was some concern the local central bank could follow the US Federal Reserve lead and increase borrowing costs although it looks as though it will remain on

SHARES/B2



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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## Imports up 7.4% ... From page B1

chinery and equipment (\$167.79 million), iron and steel (\$132.46 million), cereals and cereal preparations (\$119.62 million), transport equipment (\$108.01 million), plastics (\$86.23 million), chemicals (\$81.87 million), and telecommunication equipment and electrical machinery (\$63.86 million).

The biggest source of imports for April was the United States, accounting for 18.1 percent or \$801.3 million of the total import bill.

Other top sources of imports were Japan (\$594.42 million), Taiwan (\$375.06 million), Singapore (\$357.23 million), China (\$340.97 million), Korea (\$287.5 million), Saudi Arabia (\$234.28 million), Hong Kong (\$198.07 million), Malaysia (\$157.67 million), and Thailand (\$153.8 million).

As imports grew, however, manufacturing output, as measured by the volume of production index (VoPI), registered a year-on-year drop of 13.9 percent in April, the NSO also reported yesterday.

The decline in the volume of production by manufacturing firms caught government economists by surprise, given that exports have started to pick up and seem to post better-than-target growth this year.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), told the INQUIRER that the reported decline in the level of production was something that needed to be further analyzed.

He noted that the production decline in April, which followed a 7.8-percent drop in March, was not consistent with the rosy picture for exports. Exports in the January-to-April period were up 15.2 percent at \$14.75 billion.

Victor Abola, an economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific, surmised that the year-on-year decline in the volume of production by the manufacturing sector had to do with the Lenten break that fell in the month of April. He noted that last year, Holy week was observed in March.

## Shares continue ... From page B1

hold for the time being.

Political tensions surrounding President Macapagal-Arroyo, who faces a second impeachment attempt, added to the negative tone.

The composite index lost 11.31 points to 2,081.09, after trading between 2,075.81 and 2,094.67. Turnover was thin at 508.56 million shares worth P769.96 million.

Losers led gainers 41 to 25, with 48 stocks unchanged.

"Investors prefer to stay out of the market. They would rather be elsewhere," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

He said equity prices could fall further if yields of fixed-income assets continue to rise.

Treasury bill rates rose sharply at Monday's auction and dealers said this prompted investors to shift their funds to fixed-income assets.

The 91-day T-bill average rate, which banks use in pricing loans, rose to 6.50 percent from 5.0 percent the previous week.

Meanwhile, Aguila said bouts of bargain-hunting were seen in some stocks such as the banks which have fallen sharply as investors worried about anemic loan growth should interest rates increase. AFP

## STOCKS

	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
<b>FINANCIAL BANKS</b>					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	20,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	31	31.5	31	31	186,100
China Banking Corp.	865	865	860	860	1,463,600
Citistate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	470
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	72	71	72	600
International Exch. Bank	41	41	41	41	121,600
Phil. Savings Bank	31.5	31.5	30.5	31	3,000
Rural Comm. Banking Corp.	39	39	39	39	490,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	45,700
First Metro Invest. Corp.	41.5	42.5	41.5	42	7,700
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	6,600
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	234,800
Investage Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	18,000
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</b>					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31	31	31	31	170,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	1,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	270,000
Investage Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	
<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>					
<b>ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER &amp; WATER</b>					
First Gen Corp.	42	42	41.5	41.5	210,700
First Phil. Hggs. Corp.	43	43	42.5	42.5	228,500
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14	12,000
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	21	21	395,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.1	7.1	7.1	7.1	1,438,000
Petron Corp.	3.55	3.6	3.5	3.55	1,901,000
Petron Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	360,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	20,000
<b>FOOD, BEVERAGE &amp; TOBACCO</b>					
CADP Group Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	37,400
Goldenfield Foods Corp.	30.5	31	30.5	31	183,500
Pancake House Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	100,000
Ricor Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.6	2.65	55,300
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	60,500
San Miguel Corp. B	71	72.5	70	72.5	130,100
Universal Robina Corp.	17.75	18.25	17.75	18	3,572,800
Manich Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	280,000
<b>CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE &amp; ALLIED SERVICES</b>					
Engineering Engrs. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	602,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.35	4.35	4.35	4.35	1,002,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.28	1.26	1.28	1.28	79,000
<b>CHEMICALS</b>					
Manitoba Vinyl Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	10,000
<b>HOUSING FIRMS</b>					
Global Equities, Inc.	0.0725	0.073	0.0725	0.0725	31,400,000
Global Manufacturing	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	70,000
<b>PROPERTY</b>					
Ayala Land Inc.	11	11	11	11	3,595,000
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1,425,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.25	410,000
Danco Holdings Inc.	1.88	1.88	1.88	1.88	311,000
Dyler Bay Corp.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	205,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	3,520,000
Edco Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
Ever-Glossco Residences	0.031	0.035	0.031	0.035	2,500,000
Fluorvest Land Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.22	1.24	6,068,000
Iskcon Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,800,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.38	9,868,000
Mevo Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	3,540,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	148,000
Primesa Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9	250,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	160,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,582,000

## ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

	14	14.25	14	14	16,000
<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS</b>					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.22	1.22	706,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	905	905	900	900	21,410
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	3.35	3.35	3.3	3.35	502,000
Phil. Long Dis. Tel. Co.	1770	1785	1745	1745	148,90
<b>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY</b>					
Boonward Holdings, Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	500,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	290,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	370,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.042	0.042	0.042	600,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	90,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	86,000,000
<b>TRANSPORTATION SERVICES</b>					
Intl. Container Term. Sv.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	21,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	50,000
<b>HOTEL &amp; LEISURE</b>					
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.57	480,000
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
1people Inc.	3.15	3.5	3.05	3.05	26,000
<b>DIVERSIFIED SERVICES</b>					
Macarista Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.9	1.94	250,000
Payco Inc.	8.8	9.8	8.8	8.8	81,000
<b>Mining</b>					
Alma Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min. & Dev.	8	8	7.6	7.6	3,555,000
Lapanto Cons. Min. Co. A	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	4,370,000
Lapanto Cons. Min. Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	6,920,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	11,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.023	0.023	12,000,000
Orinco Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	48,000,000
Philippine Mining Corp. A	3.9	3.95	3.9	3.9	5,889,000
Philippine Mining Corp. B	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	7,994,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28.5	71,200
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
Valcon Int'l	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	50,000
<b>Basic Consolidated, Inc.</b>					
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,250,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	181,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	23,000,000
The Philoindl Corp. A	1.2	1.28	1.18	1.18	1,054,000
The Philoindl Corp. B	1.22	1.28	1.2	1.2	427,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	18	18	17.25	17.5	183,700
<b>PREFERRED</b>					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
<b>WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.</b>					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pref)	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	40,000

## CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.794849	1.000000	63.3850
Japan	Yen	0.006837	0.006802	0.4592
United Kingdom	Pound	1.448646	1.623800	87.3636
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.102323	0.128733	6.8724
Switzerland	Franc	0.539614	0.804699	42.9589
Canada	Dollar	0.707980	0.890710	47.5506
Singapore	Dollar	0.497278	0.625628	38.3990
Australia	Dollar	0.579506	0.729078	38.9217
Bahrain	Dinar	2.109417	2.653857	141.6762
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.211937	0.266638	14.2345
Brunei	Dollar	0.495728	0.623675	38.2949
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000106	0.0057
Bahia	Baht	0.020648	0.025977	1.3868
Thailand	Baht	0.216427	0.272287	14.5360
UAE	Dirham	1.000000	1.258100	87.1367
Euro	Euro	0.258068	0.324875	17.3328
Argentina	Peso	0.355802	0.448893	23.9642
Brazil	Real	0.134124	0.168742	8.0083
Denmark	Kroner	0.071797	0.091636	1.1550
India	Rupiah	0.015698	0.021370	14.4871
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.069250	0.087123	4.8511
Mexico	New Peso	0.479374	0.603100	32.1965
New Zealand	Dollar	0.128232	0.158813	8.4782
Norway	Kroner	0.013202	0.015610	0.8857
Pakistan	Rupiah	0.107659	0.135446	7.2308
South Africa	Rand	0.000828	0.001042	0.0556
Korea	Won	0.008562	0.010852	7.2914
Sweden	Kroner	0.015312	0.019264	1.0284
Syria	Pound	0.024290	0.030567	1.6318
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.000370	0.000466	0.0249
Venezuela	Bolivar			

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## Yuchengco shakeout

TAIPAN DAUGHTER YVONNE YUCHENGCO has abruptly resigned her directorship from the family holding company, House of Investments, without giving any reason.

Likewise, House of Investments chose not to explain why Yuchengco, 52, on Monday left the holding firm now chaired by her eldest sister, Helen Y. Dee. In addition to Dee, 61, another sister, Susanne Y. Santos, 58, sits on the board, along with their 83-year-old father, former Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco.

Yvonne, ironically, was among those whose names were submitted just last week for reelection in next month's shareholders' meeting.

According to the grapevine, Helen and her father wanted to add another independent director in the holding company, in view of the seemingly intractable problems caused by the collapse of their pre-need subsidiary.

Yvonne's resignation comes in the wake of the resignation in March from all the Yuchengco corporations of lawyer Guia Margarita Santos Qua, daughter of Susanne, who will relocate to Italy.

A Yuchengco spokesperson clarified that Yvonne will still continue to work for the other family corporations in various capacities.

On the RCBC front, the bank board on Monday also revised its bylaws by making the CEO, instead of the chairperson, the presiding officer of the bank.

The chief executive officer, which has the rank of vice chair, happens to be former Trade and Industry Secretary Ruzalino Navarro, while the chair and his boss is none other than Helen Dee.

In the meantime, the patriarch, though officially retired, still sits as honorary chair of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

### Broadsheets' diminishing returns

MANILA Bulletin, the only publicly listed Philippine newspaper, has just released its 2005 financial statements, which confirm the worldwide trend that even local broadsheets,

### COCKTALES



Victor C. Agustin

the INQUIRER included, have been suffering diminishing returns because of 24/7 news channels and the Internet.

Despite folding in the Balita tabloid and the Liwayway magazine last year, the Bulletin's earnings per share still dropped to P0.1215 from P0.14 in 2004.

Expressed in percentage of net profit to stockholders' equity, the ratio dropped to 10.3 percent in 2005, from 10.87 percent in 2004, and 12.07 percent in 2003.

In other words, the broadsheet's profit margin is getting thinner. Same trend with Inquirer's, whose financial ratios we cannot disclose.

### Money-go-round

NEW Zealand Milk, which has been acquired by San Miguel Corp. through Fonterra, has decided not to invite its present ad agency, Basic Foote Cone & Belding, for the rebidding of its estimated P50-million annual advertising account.

BENIGNO Fitial, governor of Northern Mariana Islands, is in the country for a private visit, following his marriage to a Filipina earlier this month.

### Heard through the grapevine

EQUITABLE PCIBANK director Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who is making a come back, will not be returned to the vice chairmanship of the bank in tomorrow's board meeting, after another private meeting between SM heiress Teresita Sy and Romualdez, accompanied by his adviser Macario Te, failed to produce any business settlement.

(Email: cocktails\_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktails\_pdi@yahoo.com)

## Peso closes at year's low of 53.46 to \$1

From page B1

53.53:\$1 on Dec. 20 last year.

But some traders suspected that the BSP was unloading dollars near the intra-day lows to stem the local currency's depreciation.

"The market is cautious ahead of the monetary meetings plus there are month-end requirements pushing up demand for the greenback," one trader said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the next key market barrier would be at 53.50, which if breached, would test 53.85 against the dollar.

"Despite the current pressures, we

think that the peso downside will be limited to 54 and that it will recover toward the end of the year," Ravelas said.

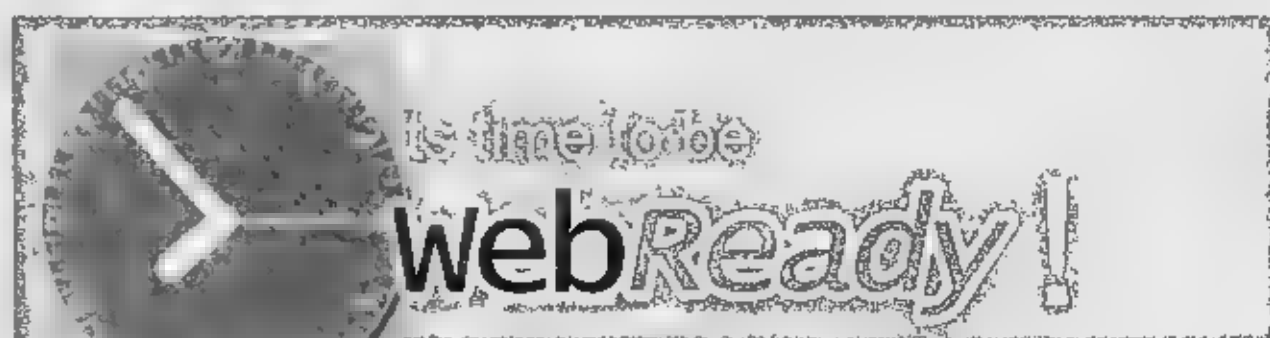
"Inflows from stronger exports will help the peso, and the country is still in better shape to face the challenges ahead. For instance, the government is expected to keep its fiscal deficit below the full-year target of P125 billion," he said.

This developed as a top BSP official said the local monetary institution, which will meet for its monthly policy rate-setting on Thursday, would not necessarily match another expected increase in the US Fed rate this week but

would closely monitor investors' perception of the risks in emerging markets.

In general, higher interest rates in the United States were making emerging market assets less attractive to offshore investors, thus causing a shift in fund flow.

The BSP has kept its overnight rates steady since October last year while the US Fed is expected to raise its rates for the 17th consecutive session over the last two years. But while another rate adjustment is seen possible by August, some global analysts expect the US Fed rate to peak at 5.25 percent.



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## Compete . . .

From page B1

Globe Telecom, on the other hand, is its closest rival and has seen a resurgence in its business this year amid sluggish revenue growth in the industry.

Isberto said the legal issues were being tackled by the firm's lawyers.

"What is undeniable is the fact that our 25/8 promos genuinely benefit our over 21 million subscribers," he said. "To stop the promos would do them a great disservice."

A cease-and-desist order would also run counter to the National Telecommunications Commission's recent rulings in favor of consumer benefit.

In its ruling on Sun Cellular's 24/7 program last year, NTC had said that the popularity of unlimited call and text program "reflects the appreciation that consumers have options that enable them to shop for and choose the price-quality package that might best suit their needs."

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PROSPERITY FUND	INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON	RISK TOLERANCE	JAN-MAY 2006*	NET RETURNS*		
				2003	2004	2005
BOND	Medium Term	Low to Moderate	3.8%	8.4%	7.9%	11.1%
BALANCED	Medium to Long Term	Moderate	13.4%	31.5%	19.1%	10.0%
PHILIPPINE EQUITY	Long Term	Moderate to High	15.2%	39.8%	20.2%	11.3%
MONEY MARKET**	Short Term	Low	1.8%	N.A.	4.1%	4.9%

\* Rates of return net of tax, exclusive of sales loads, of the Sun Life Prosperity Funds during the periods indicated. Please note that these only indicate fund performance over the given periods and do not necessarily indicate future returns.

\*\*Money Market was launched only in 2005.

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MetroHome Rate Protect Plus provides a guaranteed maximum interest of 11.5% p.a. on housing loans with terms of 10 years or more to protect borrowers from sudden rate increases that always upset the household budget. This rate cap enhances a loan package that already offers one of the lowest interest rates in the market today.

Metrobank consumer lending group head Rowena R. Oliveros said, "The MetroHome Rate Protect Plus offers borrowers a distinct advantage over the usual longer term,

fixed pricing of other banks. They can take advantage of market rates — as low as 9% p.a. during the first five years of the loan. Plus, the interest rate is guaranteed not to exceed 11.5% p.a. for 10 years."

Unlike similar programs that offer fixed interest rates, MetroHome Rate Protect Plus is unique because it allows borrowers the flexibility of annual repricing during the first five years of the loan with a rate cap guarantee. "Borrowers have the opportunity of paying less interest at the time when the outstanding balance is still high and therefore interest payments are heavier," explains Oliveros.

On the 6th to the 10th year, the loan carries a fixed rate of 11.5% p.a. "By fixing the interest

rate on the 6th year onwards, borrowers are spared the surprises of rate surges when they are nearing repayment," adds Oliveros.

MetroHome Rate Protect Plus may be used to purchase a residential lot, a house and lot, townhouse or condominium, or to reimburse expenses incurred for property purchased in cash. It may also be used to refinance an existing home loan. MetroHome Rate Protect Plus is available only for housing loans with terms of ten years or more.

For more details on MetroHome Rate Protect Plus, please contact the Metrobank Home Financing Division at 898-8534, or visit any Metrobank branch. You may also log on to [www.metrobank.com.ph](http://www.metrobank.com.ph).





# AEDC presses bid for control of Naia-3

## Firms ready to sue gov't if it insists on operating facility, says Yasay

By Daxin L. Lucas

LUCIO TAN-OWNED ASIA'S EMERGING Dragon Corp. (AEDC) is renewing its push for control of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia), with its representative saying the firm stands ready to sue the government if it insists on operating the controversial facility.

In a statement, AEDC lead counsel and spokesperson Perfecto Yasay Jr. said his client was observing recent developments with interest, especially since the government's moves allegedly erode its bargaining position vis-à-vis the terminal's builders.

"If they decide to operate the terminal, then it is close to saying that they are going to bid out the operations to a third party. They will bid out the stalls and others, so we will definitely seek legal action," Yasay added.

Yasay—a former chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission—said AEDC was "committed" to the Naia-3 project, adding that the company was willing to pay the facility's original builder if the government would give AEDC the right to operate it.

The Terminal 3 project was proposed by

AEDC in the mid-1990s but lost it to Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) of the Cheng family and partner German airport operator Fraport AG which submitted what was deemed as a better offer.

The Supreme Court voided the deal in late 2004 for being disadvantageous to the state.

In his statement, Yasay stressed that AEDC was in favor of the terminal's immediate opening as soon as it was declared safe and structurally sound.

In the meantime, lawyer Jose Bernas, who represents Bocos Sur Rep. Salacnib Bateria, said in a telephone interview that the government might lose more money if it insisted on pursuing its current legal tack vis-à-vis the terminal's builders.

"Right now, we are talking about only \$320 million, which is the fixed amount that needs to be paid to Piatco," he said. "But if the government insists on the expropriation case, it will have to pay them at fair market value."

The lawyer—whose position jibes with that of the Lucio Tan firm—said that fair market value for the facility would surely be worth more now than what Piatco initially spent for its construction in the late 1990s.

## 7-year T-bond rate up 62.5 bps

By Michelle Y. Remo

THE 7-YEAR TREASURY BOND RATE yesterday rose 62.5 basis points to 9.625 percent from the 9 percent recorded in the last auction held in January.

Fiscal authorities found the increase tolerable given the huge volume of bids for the T-bonds.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the new rate was, however, lower than the prevailing rates in the secondary market which range from 10.3 to 10.8 percent.

"This indicates that the market has regained composure and confidence in the government's fiscal standing," Cruz said in a press briefing after yesterday's auction.

Banks swamped yesterday's auction for the 7-year bonds, as volume of bids reached P18.171 billion. The amount reflected an over-subscription of more than four times, with the government's borrowing plan set at only P3.5 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted P3.5 billion worth of bids.

Cruz had said the BTR would be willing to allow increases in the rates for as long as the

market was showing appetite for government

"The market today is as good as it was yesterday. It is back on the buying mode," Cruz said.

Yesterday, the government sold P3.8 billion worth of Treasury bills, or more than the programmed P3 billion.

The benchmark 91-day T-bill rate rose 150 basis points to 6.5 percent, which was welcomed by the BTR given the strong appetite of the market for the offerings. Tenders for the T-bills reached P19.72 billion, much higher than the government's debt offering of only P3 billion.

Jonathan Ravelas, market strategist for Banco de Oro, said the increase in the rates of government securities was due to the adjustments made by the market. He explained that interest rates recently fell too low, as the market became overly optimistic about the government's fiscal position.

Ravelas said while the government's fiscal standing was doing well, current interest rate levels were just appropriate.

## ROUND-UP

### DTI's processing system

THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY yesterday said it would start implementing this year an automated system of processing applications for contractors' licenses.

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya said the DTI's Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board's new system would allow applicants to submit audited financial statements electronically, thereby eliminating tedious tasks done by employees.

Through the electronic process, PCAB could automatically compute and balance a contractor's total assets and liabilities, and build a database of construction related information.

Rommel W. Domingo

### Customs to hit target

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS SAID IT COULD easily exceed its P18-billion collection target for June, an official yesterday said.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon L. Moraes said the Reformed Value Added Tax (R-VAT) would keep the agency on course to achieving its target for the year.

As of May, actual collections hit P17.608 billion, higher than its target of P16.516 billion.

Christine A. Gayican

### Briefing for small investors

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE AND FIRST Metro Investment Corp. will conduct a free briefing for small investors and trading participants about the prospects of the property sector at 2 p.m. on June 29 at the PSE Center, Ortigas, Pasig City.

PSE president and CEO Francis Lim said briefing participants would also get an update on PSE's plan to introduce real estate investment trusts (REITs), a property-based investment now gaining increasing attention in markets overseas.

The PSE and FMIC have invited several experts to share their insights about the property sector and REIT during the briefing.

Participants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

### P&A's taxation book

PUNONGBAYAN & ARAULLO (P&A) HAS PUBLISHED a book entitled Taxation of Financial Institutions in the Philippines.

Authored by tax advisory and compliance partner Benedicta Du-Besadad, the book will be launched on June 28, 4:30 p.m. at Bocarinos, New World Renaissance Hotel Makati, with Internal Revenue Commissioner Mario Buñag as guest of honor.

The book is a comprehensive guide on the tax theories and practices governing the financial services sector. It aims to provide readers with a better understanding of the way financial institutions and their products are taxed.

### SGS' new lab

SGS PHILIPPINES INC. AN AFFILIATE OF THE Geneva-based SGS Group, will formally launch its new central laboratory in the country on June 29.

SGS Philippines has been providing risk management and quality assurance services in the country since 1949 as a representative agent of the SGS and as a branch global network in 1978.

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### Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Supply & Delivery of New PCSO Instant Sweepstakes Tickets

- The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) intends to apply the sum of Forty Million Pesos (P40,000,000.00) that serves as the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of the project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
- The PCSO now invites Bids from eligible suppliers for the supply and delivery of 50,000,000 Shares of New PCSO Instant Sweepstakes Tickets including promotional advertising and distribution of tickets, local custom duties & taxes, broker's charges & other fees due to the Government. Delivery of GOODS shall be for a period of 100 calendar days from receipt of signed contract, executed working papers and executed letter of credit. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITS.
- The procurement will be conducted through open competitive procedures specified under the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the said law. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) in CASH. The date of issuance of Bid Documents will be from June 21, 2006 until July 4, 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- The PCSO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on July 11, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at the PCSO Executive Lounge, 4th floor Main Building, PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.
- All Bids and eligibility requirements must be submitted and will be accepted at the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of July 24, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security, with the following schedule: (Late Bids shall not be accepted).

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, managers check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or P400,000.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or P600,000.00

- Bid opening shall be on July 24, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. at the PCSO Executive Lounge, 4th floor Main Building, PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- PCSO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

The above-mentioned time shall be based on the clock located at the Executive Lounge, 4th Floor, Main Building, PCSO Complex, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

HON. ROSARIO C. URIARTE  
Vice-Chairman and General Manager  
Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)  
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(PCI - June 22 & 28, 2006)

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Development Bank of the Philippines

## INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines ("DBP"), through its Special Bids and Awards Committee ("SBAC"), hereby issues this invitation to interested parties to apply for pre-qualification and to bid for the purchase and assumption of DBP's rights, title, interest and obligations on Assets Included in a Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets with total Gross Book Value ("GBV") of approximately Eleven Billion Pesos (P11,000,000,000.00) (the "Transaction").

The Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be sold through a sealed-bid public auction process. All interested parties may obtain the detailed Auction Announcement and Registration Package within the period June 28 to 30, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from and at the following address:

THE SECRETARAT  
SPECIAL BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE  
Sealed-Bid Public Auction of DBP's Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets  
Asset Management Department  
Ground Floor, DBP Building  
Development Bank of the Philippines  
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue  
Makati City, Philippines 1200

Interested parties are required (a) to submit the required Registration Documents specified in the aforementioned Auction Announcement and Registration Package and (b) to pay the non-refundable Due Diligence Fee amounting to US Dollars: Ten Thousand and 00/100 (USD10,000.00) to be considered qualified to participate in the Transaction. A Qualified Bidder may subsequently be disqualified to participate in the Transaction should there be any material and/or intentional misstatement of information in the Registration Documents provided to DBP.

The Pre-qualification Bidder Conference will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. on June 30, 2006. The said Pre-qualification Bidder Conference will be held at Suite 5, 12th floor DBP Building. The Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date is at 12:00 noon on July 4, 2006. DBP, in its sole and absolute discretion, reserves the right to accept or decline registration documents received from any interested party after said date. Kindly note that registration documents submitted after the Bidder Registration Cut-Off Date will delay the distribution of the Investor Due Diligence Information Package to the particular potential bidder. The Investor Due Diligence period will start on July 5, 2006 and end on August 29, 2006. The bid for the Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets will be opened starting at 12:00 noon on August 30, 2006.

DBP ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY ANY INTERESTED PARTY PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDER OR WINNING BIDDER, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SUCH PARTY(IES) MAY INCUR IN ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION AND BIDDING PROCESS.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT (i) TO WITHDRAW, CANCEL OR MODIFY THE TERMS OF THE TRANSACTION AT ANY TIME, (ii) TO REJECT ANY OR ALL INTERESTED PARTY(IES) FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE PRE-QUALIFICATION PROCESS, (iii) TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, (iv) TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY WITH RESPECT TO PARTICIPATION IN THE TRANSACTION, and/or (v) TO ACCEPT SUCH BID AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For any questions and/or additional information, please inquire as follows.

FINANCIAL ADVISOR TO DBP  
for the Sealed-Bid Public Auction of DBP's Portfolio of Non-Performing Assets  
c/o Asset Management Department  
2nd floor, DBP Building  
Development Bank of the Philippines  
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue  
Makati City, Philippines 1200  
Telephone no. +632 819 1306 and +632 818 9511 local 2228  
Transaction E-mail: SPV\_AMD@devbankphil.com.ph

(Sgd) ARMANDO O. SAMIA  
Executive Vice President and  
Chairman, Special Bids and Awards Committee

(PCI - June 28, 27 & 28, 2006)



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2006

# BUSINESS

## Rules on cash transfers tightened

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS tightened the rules governing the remittance business to cut the costs incurred by millions of overseas Filipino workers when sending money to their families in the Philippines.

Banks, money transfer agents and other remittance service providers are now required to disclose the transfer fee they impose, their foreign exchange conversion rate, foreign exchange spread or mark-up, other currencies conversion and related charges, and their delivery time, the BSP said yesterday.

"The BSP rule aims at improving the information available to senders of the remittances and the recipients so that they can make informed decisions on how best to effect money transfers," the BSP said.

"Improved transparency in remittance transactions may provide an incentive for remittance service providers to reduce fees to remain competitive. This in turn would maximize inflows through formal channels," it added.

The BSP said this new requirement for greater transparency formed part of a package of initiatives and measures it was preparing to benefit millions of OFWs and their dependents.

"The banking industry welcomes it because it levels the playing field (between bank and non-bank cash transfer agencies), ensure transparency and increase protection to customers," said Raul Dunayuga, president of BPI Direct Savings, a new OFW-focused thrift banking unit of the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

He noted that the BPI group, one of the leading players in the cash transfer business, was already providing these pertinent information ahead of the BSP's new requirement.


"When customers go to our officers, the exchange rate is already posted, even the delivery time and there's full disclosure on the charges that are within our control. If we credit the amount to another bank account, we tell customers there may be charges to be imposed by receiving bank," Dimayuga said.

The BSP has observed that the cost of sending remittances to the Philippines has dropped slowly but steadily over the last five years due to stiffer competition, rising volume

and technological innovations.

Based on a survey of six members from the banking industry's Association of Bank Remittances Officers Inc. (ABROD), there are four

modes of sending remittances: sending to one's own bank account, sending credits from another bank to a local bank, door-to-door courier and "advance (bank) and pay."



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FE 639 6-Wheel	926,000	169,200	65,779	45,021	35,219	25,097	20,084

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#### Low Monthly Plans

Model	SRP	20%DP	12	18	24	36	48
FE 519 4-Wheel	805,000	151,000	34,861	23,860	18,669	13,304	10,647
FE 639 6-Wheel	926,000	169,200	39,705	27,176	21,265	15,154	12,127

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**AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System**  
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City  
Telephone Nos. 911-4871 to 80

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

Republic of the Philippines  
AFP Retirement & Separation Benefits System

**Re-Survey and Topographic Survey of Seven (7) Parcels of Land Located in Brgy. Lantoran II, Desmarines, Cavite**

- The AFP RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFITS SYSTEM (AFP-RSBS), through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the Board of Trustees intends to apply the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Pesos (P400,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Re-Survey and Topographic Survey of Seven (7) Parcels of Land located in Brgy. Lantoran II, Desmarines, Cavite. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
- The AFP-RSBS now calls for the submission of letters of intent (LOI) from potential bidders, who are Filipino citizens or organizations with at least 60% interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines, to apply for eligibility and short listing for the Re-Survey and Topographic Survey of Seven (7) Parcels of Land located in Brgy. Lantoran II, Desmarines, Cavite. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs by hand, through mail, or facsimile on or before 05 July 2006 5 pm at BAC Secretariat Office CMA-C, AFP RSBS Building, Capinpin Avenue, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on 19 July 2006 5 pm at the BAC Secretariat Office CMA-C, AFP RSBS Building, Capinpin Avenue, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Eligibility check and short listing shall be conducted on 2 July 2006.
- The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9164 (R.A. 9164) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). Only those that are short listed will be invited to submit bids. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of (2) consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

ITEM	WEIGHT	RATING	WEIGHTED SCORE
<b>I. APPLICABLE EXPERIENCE (30%)</b>			
a) Completed consulting services of same complexity and technical specialty comparable to job under consideration, including quality of performance	(20%)		
b) Other completed consulting services related to the job under consideration	(10%)		
c) Known cases of prior performance, including quality of work conforming to obligations and cost of services			
<b>II. QUALIFICATION OF PERSONNEL (30%)</b>			
Qualification of the key personnel that may be assigned to the job	(30%)		
<b>III. JOB CAPACITY (20%)</b>			
Current workload relative to capacity	(20%)		

- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9164 and only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9164 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE) process. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to bidders.

- Interested consultants may obtain further information from the AFP-RSBS at the address given below from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday:

AFP-RSBS Bids and Awards Committee,  
AFP-RSBS Building, 424 Capinpin Avenue,  
Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City  
Tel. Nos. 911-40-71 local 286/289/291

- The contract shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) calendar days
- The AFP-RSBS reserves the right to reject any and all bids, award the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Asset Enhancement Office  
Ms. Alma P. Aban  
AFP-RSBS Bldg, 424 Capinpin Avenue,  
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City  
Tel. No. 911-40-71 local 287  
Tel/Fax No. 911-21-65

(Sgt.) FRANCIS C. ACOSTA  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-June 21 & 26, 2006)

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Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumes with HRM Clearance, Birth Certificate and Employment Certificate to:

SBAIA Labor Department  
Subic Bay Freeport Zone  
Contact Person: Lourdes C. Albin, Jr.  
Personnel Officer  
Hitachi Air Conditioning Products (Phil.) Inc.

**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Energy Complex, Merritt Road  
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634  
Tel. No. 883-1320, Local 5285 and 5287

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID**

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET
Various Sizes of Gate Valves under FGJ 60808	PHP 6,892,000.00
Various Sizes of Long Radius Elbows under FGJ 60822	PHP 12,308,000.00
Various Sizes of Casting Head Flanges under FGJ 53769	PHP 3,505,000.00
Various Sizes of Casting Head Flanges under FGJ 61979	PHP 1,854,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address old Podeside R. Cabanog and Maria Castro upon 1st Monday starting June 21, 2006, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on June 28, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box interest not later than 2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) on July 12, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission of a check of funding from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any irregularity in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to release the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

PNOC-June 21 & 26, 2006

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**OBITUARIES**

**GLORIA DOMINGO MANALO**

of Pateros, Metro Manila

Died in the Grace of our Lord  
on June 27, 2006 at the age of 88.

**BS Pharmacy 1937 – University of the Philippines**  
**Professor – UP College of Pharmacy**  
**UP MS Pharmacy**  
**MS Chemistry – University of Michigan**  
**PHD Analytical Chemistry – University of Michigan**

Her loving brothers & sisters: (†) Fernando, (†) Maria, (†) Esperanza, Augusto, Agripino, Ponciano and Josefina; brothers and sisters-in-law; nephews and nieces; friends and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Santuario de San Antonio Chapel, Forbes Park, Makati City until Thursday a.m., June 29, 2006 and will be transferred to Claret Church, U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City. On Friday, June 30, 2006 the body will be transferred to Garden of Memories Chapels, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 01, 2006 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

**AGRIPINO B. DE VERA**

of Dagupan, Pangasinan and Makati City

Peacefully joined his Creator  
on June 23, 2006 at the age of 82.

He is survived by his wife Naty; children Noel, Arnold, Teddy, Yul & Ver (+); daughters-in-law, grandchildren, relatives & friends request pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sacred Heart Chapel of National Shrine of Sacred Heart at Dau St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Interment at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the funeral Mass today, June 28, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at Church of National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Dau St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

**MARCIANA SALONGA**

vda. de MENGUITO

of #522 M. Almada St., Pateros, Metro Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord  
on June 25, 2006 at the age of 87

Her bereaved children: Temie & Marita, Lorie & Tanny, Ding & Tessie, Merlie & Sum, Re, Al & Family sisters Tiniong, Clon, Lourdes & Nene; grandchildren: Bebeth, Meluie, Lalaine, Lynette, Liza, Lann, Amber, Shela, EL, Marleria, Andrew, Aljane & Aljon, great grandchildren: Gabbie, Mickey, Ruellette, Kayla & Angel request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 5, Garden of Memories Chapels, Bagong Caizada, Pateros, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 02, 2006 at the Garden of Memories Memorial Park, Pateros, Metro Manila after the 2:00 p.m. funeral Mass.

**Leopoldo T. Reyes, Sr.**

of Malolos, Bulacan,  
peacefully joined our Lord.

His wife Gloria; children Elaine, Herdie, Paul, Lorna, Ned and Joan, give thanks to the Lord for the blessing of his life.

His remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Church, Quezon City. Mass will be today, June 28, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. and interment will be held soon after at Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

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# Palawan eyes P2-B medical center

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF PALAWAN has asked the Department of Health for help in upgrading the province's health care system, which will include the development of a P2-billion medical tourism facility.

Palawan governor Joel T. Reyes said yesterday in a briefing that the move was an effort at clarifying the local government's "relationship" with the national government, which would hopefully resolve funding issues.

The natural resource-rich province is in a legal tussle with central authorities stemming from a dispute over revenues from the Malampaya natural gas deposit off Palawan.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Solicitor General asked the Supreme Court to overturn

## Province asks DOH for help in solving funding problems

a Court of Appeals decision issued in December 2005 that said the Malampaya gas field was part of Palawan and thus entitles the province to a share in revenues.

Provincial Capitol estimates showed that, based on Department of Energy figures, Palawan was entitled to some P2 billion in gas earnings over a period of 20 years starting 2002.

The governor explained that with such an inflow of revenues, a planned Medical Center—a health care facility with provisions for

medical tourism—could be easily realized. "Some private sector groups have signified interest in taking part in this but (we regard DOH input) indispensable in this project," he added. Reyes said his office had signed a contract with a consultancy firm, which will study the feasibility of putting up the medical center.

"Palawan has a rich potential in medical tourism," he said. "We have natural spas, good beaches and lush mountains that are perfect settings for rest, recuperation and therapy."

He said further that Palawan was improving its medical and health care facilities with the establishment of the North and South Provincial Hospitals.

Plans are also underway for the development of a community-based health insurance system for indigents, Reyes said.

## NTC kicks out ANC from channel 27 slot

By Daxim L. Lucas

SUBSCRIBERS TO THE CABLE television services of Sky Cable should expect yet another round of confusing channel reassignments after telecommunications regulators ruled against the Lopez-owned firm in its dispute with rival GMA Network Inc.

In a rebuke of the practices of Central Cable TV—Sky Cable's official name—the National Telecommunications Commission's ordered the firm to yield its channel 27 slot to GMA Network's QTV-11 program transmissions.

The decision means that Sky Cable will have to reassign its ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), which presently occupies channel 27, to another slot.

In its decision, NTC said it found Sky Cable "liable for violating the provisions of [an earlier memoran-

dum circular] for refusing to carry UHF 27 (owned by GMA-7) at the channel in which it is transmitting."

The regulator also slapped a monetary penalty on the cable operator according to the terms of the Commonwealth Act No. 146 or the Public Service Act which penalizes "public services" for violating rules of the NTC.

NTC also ordered Sky Cable to carry GMA-7's UHF 27 signal on its channel 27 slot—dislodging the popular ANC channel—within 30 days from receiving the decision.

"[Sky Cable] is hereby warned that a repeat or recurrence of its violation shall be dealt with more severely by this commission," the NTC warned.

The decision was signed by NTC commissioner Ronald O. Solis and deputy commissioners Jorge V. Sarmiento and Jaime M. Fortes Jr.



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Republic of the Philippines  
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS  
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS ON PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE JULY 15, 2006 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE CREATION OF BARANGAY MANURIGAO TO BE TAKEN FROM BARANGAY ANDAP, AND BARANGAY TANDAWAN TO BE TAKEN FROM BARANGAY CAMANLANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF NEW BATAAN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY, PURSUANT TO PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE NO. 02 DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 2003 OF THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY.

ABALOS, Benjamin S. Chairman  
BORRA, Resurreccion Z., Commissioner  
TUASON, Florentino A. Jr., Commissioner  
BRAUNER, Romeo A., Commissioner  
SARMIENTO, Rene V., Commissioner  
FERRER, Nicodemus T., Commissioner

Printed/dated: 23 June 2006

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, the Local Government Code (Republic Act No. 7166), Republic Act No. 7166, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections RESOLVED to adopt, as it hereby RESOLVES to adopt, the following Calendar of Activities and Periods of Prohibited Acts for the July 15, 2006 plebiscite to ratify the Creation of Barangay Manurigao to be taken from the Mother Barangay Andap, and Barangay Tandawan to be taken from the Mother Barangay Camanlangan, Municipality of New Bataan, Compostela Valley, to wit:

DATE/PERIOD	PLEBISCITE ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
July 3, 2006 (MON) to July 17, 2006 (MON)	PLEBISCITE PERIOD	1. Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyances, even if licensed, to possess or carry the same unless authorized in writing by the Commission (Sec. 281 (p) (c) (a) OEC as amended by Sec. 32 R.A. No. 7166); 2. Suspension of elective local officials, (Sec. 281 (x) OEC); 3. Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service, (Sec. 261 (h) OEC); 4. Organization or maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces, (Sec. 281 (u) OEC); 5. Appointment or hiring of new employees, (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 6. Creation or filling up of new positions, (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 7. Promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privileges, (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 8. Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds, (Sec. 281 (w) OEC); 9. Releases or disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development, (Sec. 281 (v) OEC); 10. Appointment or use of special policeman, special confidential agents or persons performing similar functions in the territory of barangay chairman, municipal mayor or any appointing authority. Last day for appointment of members of Plebiscite Commission Posting of the Certified List of Voters as of the May 10, 2004 elections, including all those whose applications for registration and/or transfer of registration records have been approved by the ERB as of the 1st quarterly ERB meeting on April 17, 2006.
July 03, 2006 (MON) to July 14, 2006 (FRI)	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	1. Cockfighting, and other forms of gambling, holding (airs, boxing and/or any other similar sports, (Sec. 281 (dd) OEC); 2. Giving, accepting free transportation, food, drinks, and things of value (Sec. 89 OEC); 3. Opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise or refreshment, etc within 30 meters radius from polling place (Sec. 281 (dd) (2) OEC).
July 10, 2006 (MON)		
July 12, 2006 (WED) to July 15, 2006 (SAT)		
July 14, 2006 (FRI)		
July 15, 2006 (SAT)	PLEBISCITE DAY	

This Resolution shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines by the Education and Information Department, and in one (1) local newspaper by the Regional Election Director of Region XI. The Education and Information Department shall likewise furnish copies of this Resolution to the Offices of the Regional Election Director of Region XI, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Compostela Valley, the Election Officer of New Bataan, Compostela Valley, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Secretary of the Department of Education, the Governor of Compostela Valley, the Mayor of New Bataan, Compostela Valley, the Head of the DepEd Office and the DepEd Supervisor of New Bataan, Compostela Valley. The Election Officer of New Bataan, Compostela Valley shall give this Resolution the widest dissemination in his municipality.

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations, assisted by the Director of the Education and Information Department shall implement this Resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its promulgation.

SO ORDERED.

July 17, 2006 (MON) LAST DAY OF PLEBISCITE PERIOD

Signature of Chairman: BENJAMIN S. ABALOS

Signature of Commissioner: FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.

Signature of Commissioner: ROMEO A. BRAUNER

Signature of Commissioner: RENE V. SARMIENTO

Signature of Commissioner: NICODEMUS T. FERRER

(PDA June 28, 2006)



# MOTORIZING

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

GOTCHA, 'ZIPPYIES'!

## 'Guesstimates' galore on braking distances



THIS speedy legislator's BMW 5 will pass by 13 buses before it screeches to a halt.

By Tessa R. Salazar

(Second of three parts)

**I**N A SNAP, INQUIRER Motoring last week estimated the braking distances of two zippy "perps" (short for perpetrators) making short work of a stretch of the 84-km North Luzon Expressway. Here are more speed freaks captured

in an Olympus C770 camera attached to the Pro Laser 3 custom speed gun.

The braking distance means the distance traveled between the time the driver steps on the brakes and when the vehicle comes to a complete stop. Take note that this doesn't yet take into consideration the driver perception and reaction time and vehicle reaction time.

The plate numbers have been intentionally blurred to protect the owners of the posh cars shown here.

For a more intelligent guesstimate, In-

quirer Motoring sent the images and the corresponding speeds to Joel Neilsen, owner and managing director of Safe Drive Training in Australia Pty Ltd.

### The dynamics of stopping

In the simplest possible terms, Neilsen and his team explain the dynamics of stopping. For any vehicle, the braking distance is quadrupled every time the speed is doubled. A car running at 200 kph would consume a braking distance four times that of the same car running at 100 kph. Neilsen explains this in terms

of the equation that Kinetic Energy = 0.5 x mass x velocity squared.

This BMW 5 Series vehicle, owned by a lawmaker caught speeding thrice, is seen running at 183 kph. At this speed, the Bimmer will only be able to come to a complete stop after 140 meters. This distance is equivalent to 13 full-size buses (measuring 10.6 meters each).

### Simplifying calculations

Here, a black Porsche 911 running at 159 kph would have to consume 95 meters—equivalent to 9 buses—before

stopping.

As we stated last week, to simplify the calculations, we had to assign some givens: (1) Only the driver is in the car; (2) The car has good tires with correct tire pressures (we assume they do, relative to the luxury class of the vehicles); (3) The car has standard original equipment brakes (not upgraded); (4) The car is running on good road surface in the dry (NLEX roads are world-class); and (5) The drivers are skilled (not impaired by fatigue, alcohol or drugs, and not distracted by cell phones)



SOME 540 people on board 9 buses will wonder why this black Porsche 911 is in a hurry to stop.

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## Inquirer columnist elected Cagi president

INQUIRER COLUMNIST Aida Sevilla-Mendoza was recently elected as president of the Car Awards Group Inc. for the 2006-2007 campaign.

Also elected were Mercedes Benz Magazine editor Alvin Uy, vice president; Motorcycle Magazine editor in chief and Philippine Star contributor Lester Dizon, treasurer; Top Gear Philippines off-road guru and lawyer Robbie Consunji, secretary; and Manila Bulletin senior reporter and Cruising



SEVILLA-MENDOZA

Magazine and Top Gear Magazine columnist Aris Ilagan, public relations officer.

Past Cagi president Manny de los Reyes, editor in chief of Speed Magazine and Philippine Star contributor, was nominated as the group's ex-officio.

Elected as officers were Consunji, Sevilla-Mendoza, Ilagan, Dizon and Uy. They later elected among themselves the president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and public rela-

tions officer.

Cagi, a nonstock, nonprofit organization of 27 motoring journalists from over 20 print, broadcast and cyber media outfits, held its elections at the conference hall of Ortigas Home Depot complex in Pasig City.

Attending the elections were representatives from the Inquirer, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, Manila Standard Today, Manila Times, Business Mirror, RPN 9 News, Studio 23's Hotwire and Stop-

light TV, ABC 5's MP Turbo, REVI Magazine, Top Gear Philippines, Gadgets Magazine, Speed Magazine, Mercedes Benz Magazine, autotondustriya.com and motoncars.com.

Now on its third year, Cagi institutionalized the annual Philippine Car of the Year (Co-ty-P) awards that honor the motor vehicles adjudged as the best in their respective categories. The Car of the Year is chosen from the best-in-class winners.

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# Asian brands top new-car quality survey

**DON'T SLIGHT KOREAN CARS** any more. In the latest J.D. Power & Associates new-car quality survey in the United States, Hyundai Motor Co. leaped to No. 3 from No. 10 last year, overtaking Toyota Motor Corp. which was ranked No. 4.

The Wall Street Journal reported that it was the first time Hyundai made it to the top three nameplates in the study. The Korean car manufacturer was rated the leading nonluxury or mass market nameplate in terms of new-car quality, the top two rankings having been won by Porsche AG and Toyota's premium brand, Lexus.

Porsche's jump to No. 1 from No. 33 last year was also amazing, considering that Lexus had held the top spot for five years in a row. But Porsche's feat was somewhat eclipsed by the continued high rankings of Asian cars while some German and American brands lost ground.

## Toppling

Toyota rose to fourth from seventh last year, toppling General Motors' Buick which plunged from No. 4 to a below-in-

## ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza



dustrial average at No. 22. Ford Motor Co.'s Land Rover, which was nearly last in the 2005 survey, finally dropped to last place. Ford itself was ranked below the industry average for the second time in a row.

German marques did not fare much better. DaimlerChrysler AG's Mercedes-Benz and BMW both fell to below-average (No. 25 and 27, respectively) from top 10 rankings last year while Volkswagen was stuck at the bottom at No. 35 the second year in a row.

However, it should be noted that Jaguar, a British-bred premium badge of Ford, ranked No. 5 and two American GM marques—Cadillac and GMC—placed No. 7 and No. 9, respec-

tively. Asian brands occupied the rest of the top 10 positions: Honda (No. 6), Nissan's luxury brand Infiniti (No. 8) and Honda's premium marque Acura, which tied for tenth place with Chrysler.

## Oscars of quality

J.D. Power & Associates' Initial Quality Study is considered the Oscars of quality by automakers. The California-based consulting firm looks at problems that car owners report for the first 90 days of ownership, then breaks down the data for car manufacturers willing to pay for it and for the right to use the results in their advertisements.

This year, the survey was redesigned for the first time since 1998 to make it more relevant to today's motor vehicles which have faster production cycles and are loaded with high tech features such as DVD players and navigation systems. The new survey is based on questionnaire answers from 63,607 buyers and lessees of new 2006 models who were asked about 217 specific problems ranging from rear DVD-sys-

tem playback to loose molding and peeling paint.

For the first time this year, J.D. Power divided the results into two categories: design quality, measuring things like the usefulness of dashboard displays and controls and production quality, measuring the level of defects and malfunctions. Porsche had a total of 91 problems per 100 vehicles, Lexus had 93 per 100 while Hyundai had 102 per 100.

## Industry average

The industry average is 124 problems per 100 vehicles. Cellar dweller Land Rover posted 204 per 100. Lincoln and Nissan were tied for 11th place with 121 problems each per 100 vehicles while Chevrolet barely made the cut with 124 per 100.

Although Lexus lost pole position to Porsche, specific Lexus and Toyota models captured 11 out of 19 segment awards in the 2006 survey while Toyota topped five segment categories, including the Highlander SUV in the midsize multiactivity segment and the Camry in the midsize car category. As for sixth

placer Honda, five Honda models ranked among the top three of their respective segments.

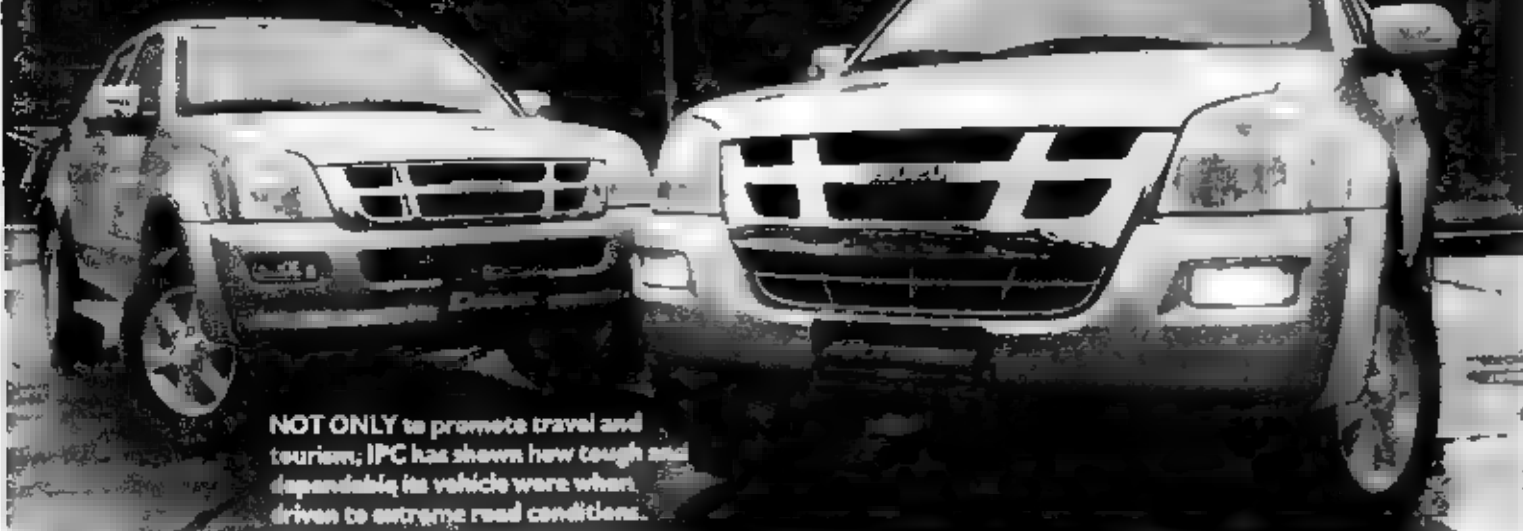
The generally poor showing of American brands compared to Asian marques is reflected in slumping May year-to-year sales figures amid soaring gas prices. Research firm Autodata Corp. says that the Big Three—GM, Ford and DaimlerChrysler—have lost market share to Asian cars while Toyota outsold DaimlerChrysler in the United States for the first time last April.

## How to dry a wet car

Reuters reported two weeks ago that police in Amsterdam stopped a Dutchman who was driving at 108 kilometers per hour, 50 kph over the speed limit. The man, age 27, said he only wanted to dry his car after he had washed it. Since he did not have his driver's license with him, the police confiscated his clean car until he produces his license.

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

# The Isuzu Mt. Apo 4x4 Drive



Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

**T**HE LOCALS CALL IT THE "EXECUTIVE route" not because it's the easiest but it's the only way that would allow our group to drive our Isuzu vehicles halfway up Mt. Apo in Mindanao and from the jump-off point reach the peak of the Philippines' highest mountain (at 3,142.9 meters above sea level) without feeling too wasted.

This is, so far, the most ambitious event that Isuzu Philippines Corp. has organized in recent years.

"During the last four years, IPC have made successful treks to challenging and exciting places including Mayon Volcano in Albay, Mount Pulag in Benguet, and Mount Pinatubo in Zambales. Not only to promote travel and tourism, we have showed how tough and dependable our vehicles were when driven to extreme road conditions that these places feature," said Arthur Balmadrin, IPC VP for corporate business.

To make the event possible, IPC coordinated with North Cotabato Gov. Manny Pinal (Mt. Apo is located in this province as well as Davao City and Davao del Sur) and engineer Ellsworth Lucero of the Philippine National Oil Company (whose Site G located 2,200 meters above sea level was used as the group's jump-off point in going to Mt. Apo's peak).

## Seldom used

The executive route is seldom used and is closed to regular climbers after Mount Apo was

again opened to climbers in March 2005. The mountain was closed to climbers in July 2000 to allow it to rehabilitate itself after 20 years of misuse by irresponsible climbers who had left tons of garbage, and defaced it.

"We now limit the number of climbers in Mount Apo. This Isuzu event is exceptional as we would like to show our media climbers the situation here in Mt. Apo and to help us disseminate what we are doing in protecting our natural treasure," said Kidapawan City Mayor Rodolfo Gantuaño.

Indeed, Mt. Apo is still in the process of healing itself and with the garbage still a concern, the group made sure all its refuse together

with some of the trash encountered along the way is brought down the mountain.

"Excellent destinations and tough activities require excellent and tough vehicles. With this Mt. Apo event, Isuzu is further proving that we have vehicles—the Alterra and the D-Max—that can go anywhere and allow its owners to pursue their chosen hobby or interest," explained Balmadrin.

The Isuzu Mt. Apo 4x4 Drive is supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. that provided Shell Diesoline Ultra fuel and Oceanic Containers Inc. that shipped the vehicles from Manila to Davao City and back.



LUCKY 9: Standing on the shores of Lake Venado (the country's highest lake at 2,194.5 meters above sea level) and with Mt. Apo's majestic peak behind, these nine motoring journalists separated from the main group to venture the tougher route down the mountain.

# Two liters of satisfaction

**HUMANS JUST HAVE TO FIND OUT** what new things will bring; most times with the outcomes irrelevant to our search for the fulfillment of just knowing. Disappointment is commonplace when satisfying one's inquisitiveness but there are those few, special moments when being able to get an answer makes a world of difference.

Yet, curiosity and wonder are hard to come by, particularly with things that we are just so familiar with; hence my dilemmas for this week's test drive.

It would be quite the understatement to say that I'm merely familiar with the 8th generation Honda Civic. This is a car that I've encountered on and off, for a good part of almost a year, ever since having first tested and driven this mode. at Honda's Techugi Research and Development Facility last October.

## Fun and frugal

The 1.8-liter gasoline and 1.5-liter Integrated Motor Assist hybrid are cars that I enjoy driving, mostly for their firm fundamentals but mainly for their balance of everyday driving performance and sparing fuel consumption. Fun and frugal, how can one go wrong and want anything else? The proverbial monkey wrench comes in the hotter version of the current Civic, a car that has held my imagination for quite a long period of time.

The 2.0-liter K20 engine's numbers look decent when you first look at the brochure. Factory-claimed 155-hp

## MY DRIFT

Andre Palma



and 19.2-kg/m of twist are sufficient numbers that will convince even the less than inclined that there is at least some notion of power in this package. My advice though, is to chuck the brochure in the bin, and really go out and test-drive this car; the experience will probably move you, and in every conceivable sense of the word at that.

## Gears

This is a car that reminds one of how fun it is to drive a capable automobile, something that I have admittedly almost forgotten over the last year. See, you take all the factors like the solid fundamentals, the able engine, add to that a decently spaced and sorted 5-speed manual gearbox and the outcome cannot be anything other than gratifying.

First and second gears are really suited for our metropolitan traffic congestion; with first just being a tad short and second able to handle most of what Manila has to offer. Third gear is very, very long, able to touch almost 145 kilometer per hour given enough road and driver conviction.

Fourth gear goes well beyond that,

probably to an electronically limited speed that many should probably only imagine, while fifth gear does the over-drive duties for the transmission. The key to this gearbox is the way it maximizes the liberal amount of torque available, something that is surprising in a mass-market Honda engine.

## A couple of issues

When asking the Civic to turn, there are a couple of issues that come out, but nothing that is completely detrimental to the package. Let's just say that the combination of electric power steering, a heavier front end and tires that are more inclined for passenger comfort rather than canyon carving—induce a little vagueness to this car's cornering attitude.

Make no mistake, this is a car that enjoys to be driven enthusiastically. Maybe not in anyway as visceral like the EK and EG chassis of old but in a manner that is definitely more comfortable at the very least.

So did any problems arise after getting to know the 2.0-liter Civic better? Yes, just one: the fact that this is a car that has asked me to rethink my choice for a daily drive. I've always preached the gospel that frugal must go hand in hand with a car's ability to entertain, if something is to be considered as one's main mode of transportation. Fun is something the Civic provides in spades and this is an automobile that made me remember why I love to drive in the first place. Surprise, surprise!

# Unique Makati; inspired Isuzu

**ON AYALA AVENUE IN MAKATI**, Edsa-bound jeepneys can wait for passengers while parked along the main artery of the nation's main financial hub. They don't actually break a law as they are parked near zones reserved for loading and unloading passengers.

But how about this, fellas? While in motion from past Buendia on the way to Edsa, a jeepney can suddenly stop to pick up a waving passenger. And here's the catch. The driver refuses to unload a passenger at the same spot where the incoming passenger is clambering up the jeepney.

"I'll be issued a citation ticket if I unload a passenger here," said a driver in Pilapino in response to the plaint of a passenger wishing to disembark.

"But how come you are not apprehended for loading a passenger in no-loading zone?" the passenger asked the driver.

"We only unload passengers on designated loading and unloading zones," the driver replied.

The passenger could only scratch his head, smiling wryly.

Traffic officials in blue (MMDA personnel?) abound on Ayala Avenue but hardly do they flag down jeepneys loading passengers on no-loading zones.

I wonder why.

Part of Makati's uniqueness? In Makati, too, the rule on coding is in force from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., from Monday to Friday.

Makati is the only city in Metro Manila that doesn't recognize the "window coding," a system in which it disregards the rule on coding from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To this day, many motorists, for one reason or another, get themselves apprehended in Makati for "coding violations" between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Many continue to wonder why Makati can so easily disobey the MMDA rule on "window coding."

## FULL TANK

Al Mendoza



Why the rest of Metro Manila towns and cities have not followed the Makati example also baffles the mind.

Still a question begging for an answer is: If Makati can ignore an MMDA rule, what's the MMDA for then?

Indeed, only in the Philippines.

Isuzu's domination of 22 countries in 2005 regarding vehicle sales with diesel engines included the Philippines.

Figures gathered showed Isuzu cornering 35 percent of the one-ton pickup category here, not to mention collaring 69 percent in the light-duty and medium-duty trucks and an astonishing 73 percent in the commercial vehicles that weigh at least 18 tons.

Also in the list were Japan (38 percent of two- to three-ton cab-over trucks), Thailand (38 percent of one-ton pickups and 37 percent in commercial vehicles), United States (73 percent of Classes 3 and 4 of imported cab over trucks) and Australia (22 percent of commercial vehicles that weigh at least four tons).

In said categories, Isuzu Japan had reigned supreme for five straight years, Thailand 23 years, US 20 years, Australia 17 years and the Philippines seven years in the light-duty truck category.

Hat's off to Isuzu!

QUOTE ME: There ought to be a law banning texting while driving.

Send comments to menju@pldtel.net.

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# Gov't serviced debts of up to P34.3B in Apr

## From Jan to Apr, RP paid off P360.56B in liabilities

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT SPENT P34.323 BILLION FOR DEBT servicing in April, as fiscal authorities sustained efforts to reduce the country's liability as a means to improve credit image.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that, of the amount, P18.58 billion was used to pay off principal obligations while the rest P15.743 billion was allocated for interests on loans.

According to borrowing sources, domestic creditors accounted for P26.709 billion of the total debt servicing for April, while the remaining \$7.614 billion was used to pay off foreign lenders.

The amount spent in April to pay off maturing obligations brought the government's total debt servicing for the first four months of the year to P360.558 billion.

This means the government already spent half of the P721.668 billion allocated for debt servicing for the entire year.

Domestic borrowings are undertaken usually through the auction of Treasury bills and bonds, while foreign loans come mostly in the form of official development assistance from multilateral agencies and foreign bond investors.

Debt servicing eat up a chunk of the government's annual budget. The government spends about a third of the national budget to pay off interest payments for its outstanding debts which, as of end-March, already stood at P3.962 trillion.

If principal debts are to be taken into account, the government spends about 80 percent of its revenues to service these obligations. Because of scant revenues, the government is obliged to undertake additional borrowings every year to service maturing loans.

Because of the need to continue borrowing due to the government's yearly budget deficits, interest payments have been increasing over the years. This year, spending for interest payments alone is programmed to reach P339.998 billion, representing a 13-percent rise from the P299.807 billion recorded last year.

However, the Department of Budget and Management earlier said that, starting 2007, the government's spending for interest payments would record its first decline since 1996 on account of a declining budget deficit.

The last time the government registered a decrease in interest payments was in 1995, when the budget allocated for it dropped to P72.65 billion from P79.12 billion.

A lower budget deficit means the government is becoming less of a credit risk, which encourages lenders to price in lower risk premiums.

# 3 companies expected to bid for Maynilad

By Christine A. Gaylican

THREE PRIVATE FIRMS HAVE SIGNIFIED their interest in acquiring the government's 84-percent stake in west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc., according to authorities.

DMCI Holdings of the Consunji Group, the Ayala Group's Manila Water Company Inc., and a new unidentified consortium represented by the law firm of Romulo, Mabanta, Sayoc and Angeles have secured copies of bid documents each worth \$5,000 from the bids and awards committee of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, said Macra Cruz, MWSS deputy administrator.

The state-owned MWSS set the minimum bid for its 83.97-percent stake in Maynilad at \$60 million or about P3 billion, Cruz told the INQUIRER.

Oscar Garcia, board chair of Maynilad, yesterday reported that the Privatization Council had approved the terms of reference and instruction to bidders for the re-privatization of the west zone concession.

The Privatization Council is the government body tasked to oversee the disposition of government assets.

With the approval, prospective bidders may secure copies of bid documents from the MWSS from June 26 to July 10. The deadline for the submission of bid proposals is on Oct. 24, 2006.

The opening of the financial bids is set for Nov. 10. The Notice of Award is expected to be issued sometime before December after the Privatization Council confirms the award, Cruz said.

The winning bidder will take over and continue operations of the west zone for the remaining years of the 25-year concession.

Also, according to the Terms of Reference, the winning bidder will have to assume Maynilad's obligations under the Debt and Capital Restructuring Agreement (DCRA).

Maynilad, formerly controlled by the Lopez Group's Benpres Holdings Inc., last year recorded a net income of P2.2 billion. This was attributed to savings from lower interest charges and cuts in production costs, officials said.

# A LEISURE STROLL TO Galleria

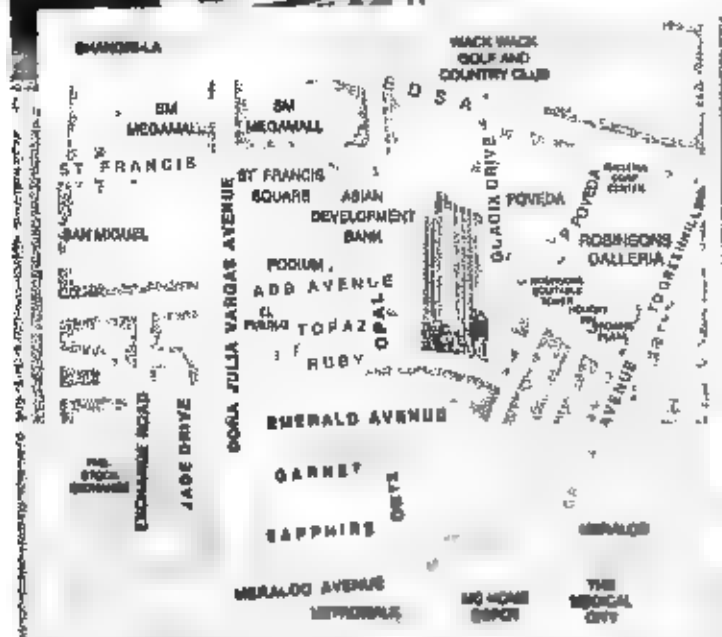


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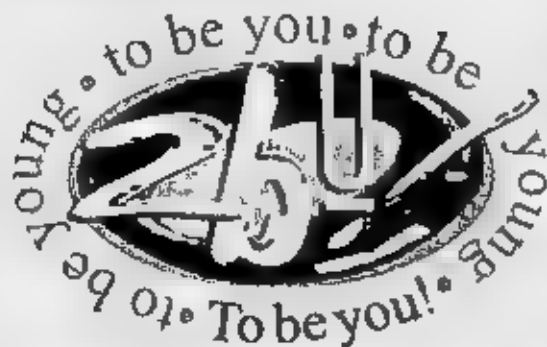
At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.



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# LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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## Welcome back, Superman!

By Adrian Dy  
2bU! Correspondent

**SUPERMAN** returned! What's sure to be a blockbuster summer film, interest in the Superman comics is expected to spike as well. But how do you know which book to invest your hard-earned money on? Let 2bU! and this guide help you decide.

### Secret Origins

If there's one thing DC superheroes suffer from, it's the constant revamp of its universe's origins, leading to numerous changes in their origin stories.

Superman has not been exempt from this, leading to different variations on the classic story of the man from Krypton.

First off is "The Man of Steel" by writer/artist John Byrne. Fresh from his "Crisis on Infinite Earths," the former X-Men artist was tasked by DC to reboot the Superman mythos. He did so with a bang, reintroducing several key elements of the franchise like Red Kryptonite, the Phantom Zone, and the three Kryptonian villains prominently featured in the second Super-

man movie.

Also available is "Superman for All Seasons," by Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale, which takes a look at Superman's early life in Smallville and in Metropolis. The retro art by Sale is the perfect complement to a story that harkens back to "the good old days" when Clark seemed to blush whenever Lois was around, and Luthor was always trying to take over Metropolis with goofy robots.

A couple of years later, a little TV show named "Smallville" came out and DC wanted Superman's history to match the series. Although "Superman: Birthright," by Mark Waid and Filipino artist Leinil Francis Yu, isn't completely compatible with the show, it does serve as a nice bridge

by showing a twenty-something Clark begin his life as a journalist, and the events that would inspire him to become a superhero.

### Previously in

Superman can't help but play a big part in DC's current company-wide storylines. "Sacrifice," a story arc that ran through all the monthly Superman comics and is now collected in trade paperback, saw the Big S

brainwashed by former Justice League ally Maxwell Lord.

Though he believed he was

under attack by some of his most powerful foes, Superman was actually fighting some of his allies, beating Batman to a near pulp and drawing Wonder Woman to a standstill. With no other options available to her, Wonder Woman was forced to break the cardinal superhero rule: "thou shalt not kill." Because of her actions, a rift formed between the Big Three of DC. It was the worst possible time, however, for such a rift to exist.

The "Infinite Crisis" monthly series saw the culmination of several years' worth of storylines. It served as the spiritual successor to DC's previous universe-altering series, "Crisis on Infinite Earths." It's hard to capture just what happened in a few short sentences, but it would suffice to say that seeing two Supermen battle it out with an insane Superboy should cause fans to wax ecstatic.

### One Year Later

After the events of "Infinite

Crisis," DC launched a company-wide gimmick entitled "One Year Later."

All DC Comics storylines suddenly jumped a year ahead, creating a sense of mystery as to what exactly happened in that missing year.

In the monthly "Superman and Action Comics," written by Geoff Johns and Kurt Busiek with art by Pete Woods, we see that Superman has lost his powers after Infinite Crisis and is now enjoying being Clark Kent 24/7. He may have to start wishing for those powers back, though, when Lex Luthor comes back to town with a Kryptonian battleship in tow and fresh plans of world domination.

### Best of the rest

And speaking of Lex Luthor, fans of that bald megalomaniac (now played with such aplomb by Kevin Spacey in the new movie) might be interested to pick up "Lex Luthor: Man of Steel" by Brian Azzarello and Lee Bermejo. The series paints Lex in a sympathetic light, such that you begin to understand his side of the story and the reason he despises Superman so much.

And if you're interested in bombastic splash pages and some of the best depictions of Superman in a long time, you might want to get the two volumes that comprise "For Tomorrow" by Azzarello again and with art by the one-and-only Jim

WELCOME/CZ



A guide to some of the best Superman comics available out there



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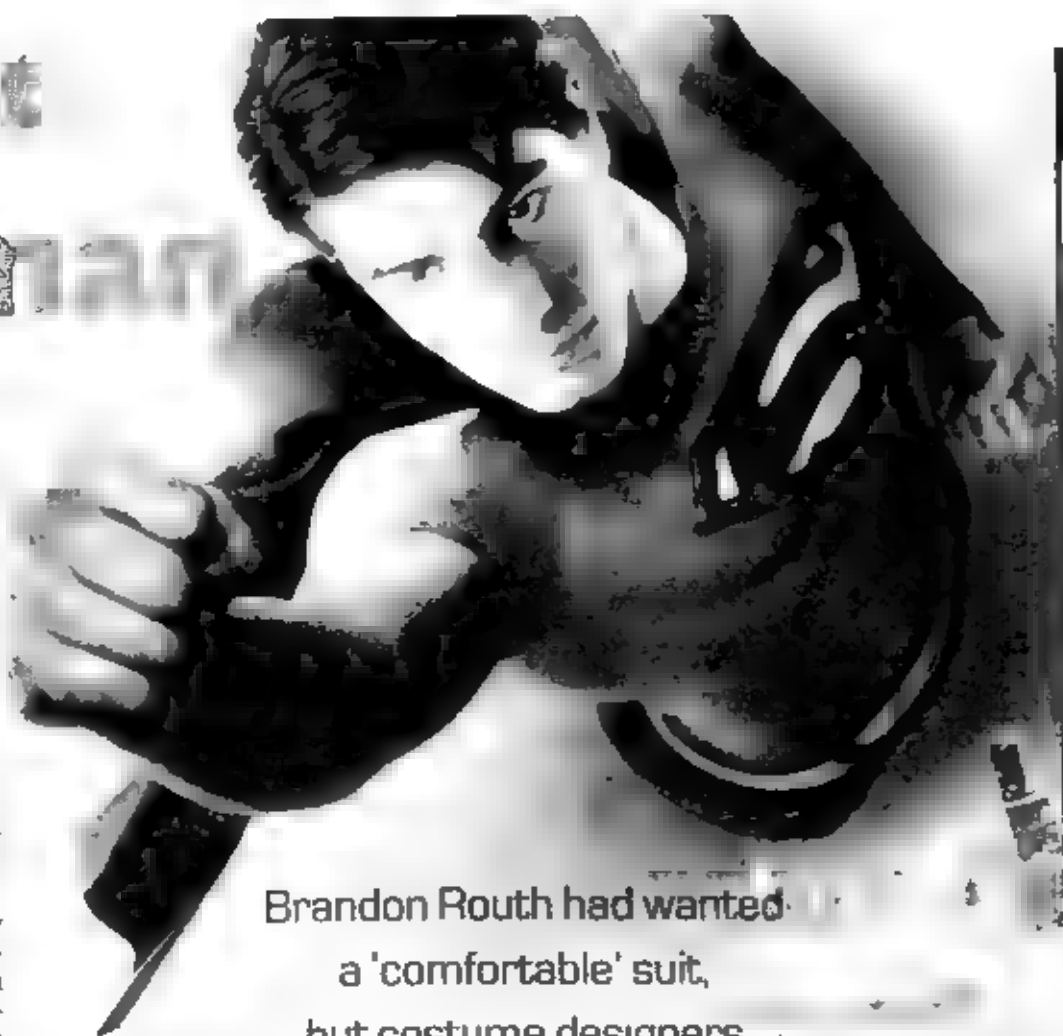
# Super suit for Superman

**A** BLENDING OF CLASSIC and cutting-edge technology went into designing the costume of the Man of Steel in Warner Bros.' new action-adventure movie, "Superman Returns."

Director Bryan Singer wanted the suit not only to reflect the comic image of Superman that has survived over the ages, but also to bring a contemporary edge to the character.

"I remember the first day Brandon Routh, who plays Superman, came in," said costume designer Louise Mingenbach, who is no stranger to superhero wardrobe, having designed the costumes for both of Singer's X-Men movies.

"I remember him saying that it was really important to him that the costume be comfortable so as not to be distracting for him in any way. Of course, never meaning to be insensitive, I just laughed and said, 'Baby, you are never going to be as uncomfortable in your life as you will be in this costume. It is not easy being a superhero and being one is



Brandon Routh had wanted

a 'comfortable' suit,

but costume designers

told him comfort was not what being

a superhero was all about

certainly not about comfort."

"It was really kind of sweet, actually," said Mingenbach, "because, at that point, Brandon really didn't know what he was getting into."

What he would practically live in for the next few months was a dyed-blue, skin-tight fabric called Miliskin under which a contoured "muscle suit" would be worn.

"Because the Miliskin is so tight, it flattened Brandon's natural musculature that he had been working very hard to develop so we, in turn, had to develop the muscle suit in order to give back some of his body's natural shape and contours," said Mingenbach.

The costume's famous "S" shield is made of a molded latex relief that was then laser cut with thousands of tiny "S" insignias.

The cape's lining was made of wool and especially milled in France. It was then given an ombre treatment which gives the center of the cape its vibrant red color. The outside of the cape was then "rubberized to give it some texture and weight," said Mingenbach. "So you can see why there would be nothing comfortable about wearing two skin tight suits and a 10-pound cape on top of it all."

## Brandon's intensive workout

To inhabit the suit as Superman, Routh would need to undergo intensive physical training, which began practically before he knew he had the part.

While in Los Angeles, Routh trained with Gudni Gunnarsson. "The few months of training in L.A. were basically about getting in shape to get in shape," Routh said. "It was all about training my body to endure the stress of heavier lifting later on in Australia."

Once in Sydney, Routh began working with Australian trainer Michael Ryan, who put the actor through near-superhuman rigors.

"The workouts started out tough and always stayed tough," Routh recalled. "Many times I felt more like an athlete than an ac-

tor."

"Hanging 50 feet in the air or holding my breath 15 feet below water wearing a very constricting costume put tremendous stress on every part of my body, especially when we did those scenes all day long for many days in a row. As crazy as it sounds, I adjusted and my body got used to it."

The average day was heavy weightlifting for an hour or more, running and then on to wardrobe fittings, hair and makeup tests and camera tests.

"I learned a lot, I achieved a lot and I gained an incredible amount of confidence in myself thanks to the expertise of everybody around me," Routh said.



CLARK and Lois. Brandon Routh and Kate Bosworth

Opening across the Philippines on June 28, "Superman Returns" is distributed by Warner Bros. Pictures, a Warner Entertainment Company.



## Superman movie premiere

SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS IS sponsoring a premiere showing of "Superman Returns" that will be attended by top personalities, celebrities, press people and key Samsung dealers and customers.

The event is part of Samsung's current global "Elegant" promotion, which features the Korean electronics giant as an icon brand.

Sepco president and CEO Spencer Shum said Superman represented integrity, substance and strength of character, core values that guided Samsung in its undertakings, particularly in the production of consumer products.

Samsung has also launched a special edition of handheld phones (preloaded with Superman java games, wallpapers, ring tones and movie trailers) and MP3 players (preloaded with the Superman soundtrack, wallpapers and screensavers) complete with premium items. The company has also lined up in-store activities and sales promos for Filipino fans of Superman.

The new Superman movie is top-billed by newcomer Brandon Routh, in the role of the super hero. The movie, directed by Bryan Singer, also stars Oscar winner Kevin Spacey and Kate Bosworth.



ELEGANT contours and rounded edges define the intriguing design of the Samsung SGH-D520.



FEATURING SGH-D520's 1.3 Megapixel Camera  
SGH D520's Slim and Narrow Design

## Welcome back...

From page C1

Lee. While the story is confusing, to put it mildly, Lee is at the top of his game here, and having him draw an issue-long battle between Wonder Woman and Supes is a definite bonus.

If it's a good story you want, though, look no further than comics god Alan Moore, of "Watchmen" and "V for Vendetta" fame. In the compilation "DCU: The Stories of Alan Moore," are two of the best Superman stories, "Whatever Happened to the Man of Steel?" and "For the Man Who Has Everything."

And finally, if you're looking for a "twist" to the classic Superman stories, DC's Elseworld's alternate reality stories just might be what you're looking for. "JLA: The Nail" by Alan Davis is a look at a world where Jonathan and Martha Kent failed to discover Superman's crashed spaceship because their car had a flat tire. As a result, we now see a world where Lex Luthor runs around

unchecked and the Justice League fights for public approval.

"Superman: Red Son" by Mark Millar, on the other hand, shows a world where Superman's spaceship crashes into Russia, instead of Smallville. Kansas Communism never had it any better than in this story, with Cold War intrigue leading to a deadly standoff between Russia's Superman and American super soldiers led by Lex Luthor.

While this guide has highlighted some of the best Superman comics available, there's still a wealth of trade paperbacks available featuring the Man of Steel, not to mention his participation in the Justice League, the team-up book "Superman/Batman," and the quirky "All-Star Superman."

Luckily for us, Superman fights a never-ending battle, which only means more cool stories for us to read.



BRANDON Routh lived in this costume for a few months.







GOLD halter dress (P1,800)

# India in Manila

By Cheryl Tiu  
2b/11 Correspondent

**I**NDIAN FASHION IS QUITE the rage overseas. With its vibrant colors, lavish embellishments and intricate details, Bollywood-inspired fashion has made its mark on international haute couture.

Now, thanks to young designer Madhuri Hemandas, it has reached local shores.

Born and raised in Manila (though she has also lived in the Canary Islands and the Ivory Coast), Madhuri has always had an eye for the beautiful, from shiny and colorful toys to rich and striking clothes. It certainly wasn't a surprise that she eventually went into fashion.

In 2003, a year after graduating with a Communications degree at Ateneo de Manila University, Madhuri packed her bags for Milan. She spent eight months at the Istituto Marangoni where she learned pattern-making and designing, and most importantly, thinking out of the box.

It was her overall experience living in Milan that inspired her. "Just sitting on a bench watching people taught me a lot about fashion. You would see [a lot of] women cycling in high heels, preferring to look good over being comfortable."

In June 2004, just a few months after she got back from Milan, Madhuri left for Mumbai (formerly Bombay), as she had always wanted to get into Indian fashion. She took a

course at the B.D. Soman Institute of Fashion and Technology and had the opportunity to present one of her designs at a fashion show. She was heavily influenced by the city, especially from watching TV and Bollywood movies and flipping through Page 3, the society page of The Bombay Times, a fashion and lifestyle supplement of the Times of India.

"There's so much fashion and you can see all the socialites wearing what's 'in' at the moment. In fact, people would refer to them as Page 3 girls," she says. Madhuri also paired up with a friend and organized an exhibition-bazaar for their collection, Kitsch, which ran for three days. It was a hit, with almost everything sold out.

Now back in Manila, Madhuri is busy showcasing her creations to the Philippine Market. She describes her style as "mixing and matching—and creating a new style out of it." Her bestsellers so far are her unique and colorful bhandini dresses, an ancient method of tie-dyeing with nails, beads, grains, coins or stitches originating from the Indian states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Re-popularized by a legendary Indian designer, Ritu Beri, the bhandini is a favorite of many designers who continue to find new and inventive ways of using tie-dyed fabrics.

Madhuri's creations are a testament to her continuing affinity for the beautiful.

"That is always the idea in every piece I make. Each and every one of my designs has to be beautiful," she says.

Call 0917-8812235 or e-mail madhuri328@yahoo.com



BACKLESS tube bhandini dress (above, P3,800); polka-dot net skirt (right, P900)



BHANDINI dress (P3,800)

## Don't miss out on life's little moments!

Have you ever come inside from a smoke-break to find you've missed out on a great conversation or funny joke? Have you ever missed out on a picture-perfect moment of your child because you just couldn't resist the craving any longer? Have you ever found yourself running embarrassingly late to a social event because you had to have "one last cigarette" before you left the house?

"Smoking can be addicting. Cigarettes fulfill the criteria for substance dependence as they deliver significant amounts of nicotine which is a positive reinforcer. When a

person quits the habit, he experiences several withdrawal symptoms during abstinence which is only relieved by nicotine administration," explains Dr. Daniel Tan, president of Tobacco-Free Philippines.

Nicotine is one of over 4,000 substances found in cigarette smoke. It's a common misconception that it causes cancer but it does not. Instead, it is the other substances in cigarettes that are mainly responsible for bringing physical damage to your body. Nicotine in cigarettes is what makes it so hard to stop smoking.

### A Welcome Arrival

This is where the Nicorette (nicotine) gum comes in. It is a form of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) that has assisted thousands of smokers around the world for over 20 years to beat the habit by controlling their cravings. Now smokers need only chew mini-flavored and sugar-free Nicorette gum to provide their body with just enough nicotine to reduce the cravings.

Dr. Lenora Fernandez, Clinical Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine at the UP College of Medicine,

welcomes the arrival of Nicorette in the country. "The availability of a pharmacological treatment like the Nicorette gum will further boost the country's smoking cessation programs. The use of Nicorette along with a stop smoking program will definitely increase success rates of those who want to quit smoking." And Dr. Fernandez should know. She is also the Consultant Coordinator of Philippine General Hospital's Comprehensive Ambulatory Respiratory (CARE) Program and Stop Smoking Program.

**Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.**

Nicorette gum is highly recommended

for people who need to relieve their withdrawal symptoms because they want to stop smoking immediately, or want to reduce smoking gradually, then quit.

It works by releasing nicotine into the saliva and is absorbed through the lining of the mouth. Its effect is a noticeable decrease in both the cravings and withdrawal symptoms that a smoker goes through when trying to quit. Nicorette and willpower combined doubles one's chances of quitting successfully.

By using Nicorette when cravings strike, smokers can get on the path to giving up smoking and focus on their pastimes and hobbies, stay in the company of their friends and families and enjoy life to the fullest.

ADVT



**Missing out?**  
Don't think cigarettes. Think Nicorette.



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Chew and spit: 1. Chew a piece of gum when you feel the urge to smoke. 2. Chew slowly until the taste becomes strong and allow nicotine to be taken in through the lining of the mouth. 3. Don't stop and eat the gum between gums and chew. 4. When the taste fades, chew a few times until the taste gets strong then spit the gum again. Requires mild power. Always read label. Ask your pharmacist and doctor for advice. Visit the Nicorette website at www.nicorette.com.ph. Available without prescription only. © mercury drug



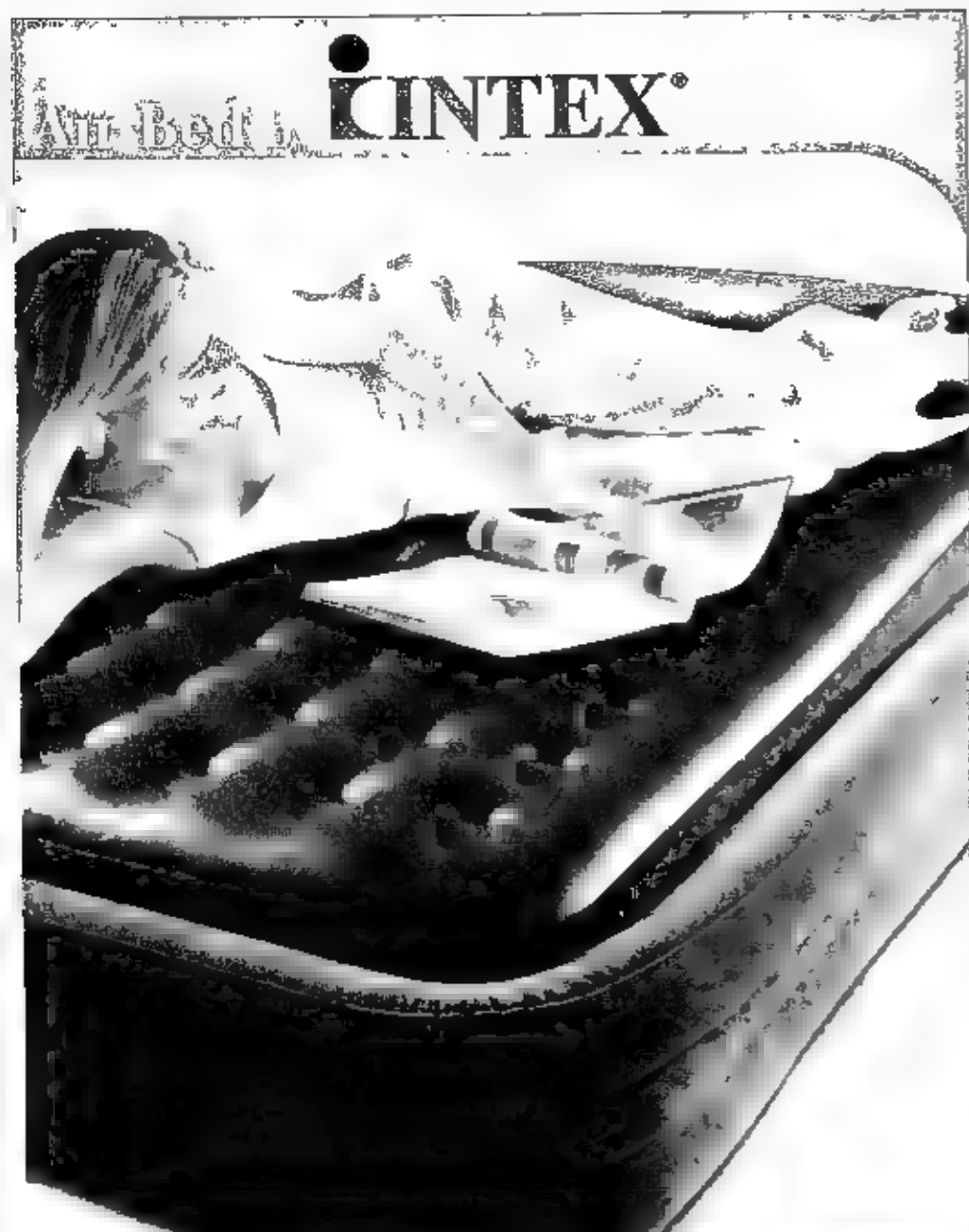


TNS dad works on his laptop while he watches his favorite basketball game.

The 'Smart Home' allows for connectivity in the domestic setting, but with a warm touch



A MICROSOFT junior demonstrates how to turn PC mode to TV mode using Microsoft Windows Media Center, an all-in-one PC and entertainment center.



## Feeling at home—and connected

By Gabriel H. Mercado  
2b/1 Contributor

LAST MONTH, VISITORS TO THE Software Innovations Philippines exhibit at Shangri-La Hotel Makati were treated to a unique event: a showcase by the Philippine software sector of business processes, mobile connectivity and personal lifestyle practices.

The exhibit featured a mock-up of a house adorned with all sorts of technological trimmings; it was called the "Smart Home."

The Smart Home featured a working living room, dining area and kitchen, bedroom, lounge and even bathroom, where a modern family could enjoy connectivity and automation. Featured in the rooms were the technological advances from such big names as Microsoft, LG Philippines and Intel.

To start with, kitchen appliances such as the washing machine and interactive refrigerator by LG ran on Microsoft Windows, and could be controlled by other PCs running on Windows as well, including those on a PC, PDA or Smartphone.

In the living room and bedrooms, the Windows Media Center running on Intel Hardware was also on display; it could be accessed simultaneously on different TV sets around the house.

The Media Center was also notable for its ability to store great amounts of content, including pictures, movies, videos and even favorite TV shows for later viewing or archiving. These are all easily controlled by any of several methods within the house, via the TV itself, a mobile device, and of course, the PCs.

Gaming is, of course, available with the Xbox 360, in full working order at the living room, which, inci-

dentally, had an engrossed, dazed teenager oblivious to the world.

### Utility, practicality

Is a Smart Home practical here? Dan Silvestre of DA Silvestre & Associates, architect of the Smart Home, explained that a Smart Home "will vary widely in relation to user preferences, budget, level of automation required, energy consumption/cost, climate and other parameters."

He added that in most of the industrialized countries, energy management and climate control are essential in home living.

Silvestre also noted that in the Philippine setting, practical applications of a Smart Home have more to do with how we deal with the weather: "In a predominantly hot, humid climate like what we have in the Philippines, cooling and ventilating a home will normally be the primary objective of climate-control and energy-management systems. Smart home technology can easily account for what we call active cooling by the use of automated controls for air-conditioning, electric fans and the like."

The exhibit also championed the use of "high-tech/high-touch," or human intervention in technology. Silvestre said this is "an integration of software, not just with hardware, but with people, which is still after all, our greatest Filipino resource."

As an example, Silvestre explained how a PDA or computer can remind the tenants when it's time to open certain doors, windows, vents or adjust shades at a certain time and angle to optimize the cooling of the house, in lieu of robotics or machines which he said are expensive, require maintenance, and, in a country which usually has household help, largely unnecessary.



JOSINE Bustalino of Microsoft Philippines tosses the Xbox 360 to MTV J! KC Montero.

essary. To be sure, a Smart Home with all its hi-tech functions such as reporting and inventory is almost an occasion for humor. During the tour, we were informed that the LG Refrigerator could reportedly issue a notice via the Internet to mention how much inventory of any particular food was left, which would allow the wife to check her spouse's diet. This elicited guffaws from the crowd.

However, what is important to remember here is that the Smart Home aims to introduce home technology in both software and hardware aspects, and that these technologies are actually available already.

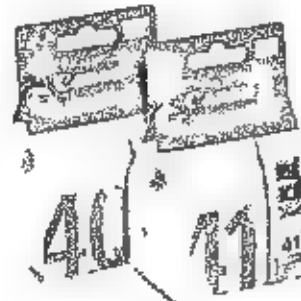
As Silvestre said, "The smart home concept was not intended to showcase a Filipino smart home of the future. It was intended to illustrate a Filipino smart home of today. The technology exhibited is the technology of today, albeit with a cutting edge."



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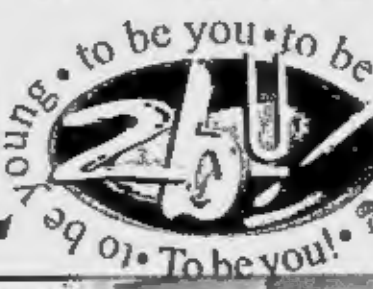
MTV J's (from left)  
KC Montero, Marc  
Abaya, and Cindy  
Kuriato having fun  
with the Xbox 360



SECOND district of Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla and Rep. Simson Kintanar, chair of the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (standing, fourth and fifth from left), get a tour of the Digital Home with Microsoft Philippines developer and platform lead Stanley Tan and Microsoft Southeast Asia president Chris Atkinson.



## LIFESTYLE



DI

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# Montessori for the masses

Three people with different dreams come together to provide high-quality education to 'barangay' kids

Text by Pam Pastor  
Photos by August de la Cruz

ARCHITECT ROBERTO "Matty" Perez once helped build a Montessori school in Quezon City. Since then, it had been his dream to create something similar for his own community. Barangay captain Andy Abundo had plans of building a daycare center for the children in his barangay.

Meanwhile, teacher Pao, a Montessori educator, had resisted the pull of working abroad because of her desire to help mold Filipino children into responsible people.

"But the question was, how do you apply a Montessori way of teaching in a barangay?" Matty said.

Deciding to go beyond dreaming and to start moving, Matty talked to Andy and Pao, Matty's tennis buddy. The two responded to the idea with enthusiasm.



THE SHARING area

"Education is one service that you cannot deny. All children have the right to education, and if the barangay can give a high standard of education, why would I say no? It was my dream also," said Andy.

Soon, the three were working on their project. It wasn't easy—they were met with doubts and questions. But they stayed focused on their goal—to provide a Montessori education for the barangay kids at a more affordable price.

The barangay office offered support by giving space and manpower. Teacher Pao trained volunteer teachers for six months.

They also spent a lot of time preparing special school materials—essentials in a Montessori school. Because these materials cost a lot of money—and because a lot of them need to

be ordered from the US, the group had to be resourceful. Pao and Matty drew the materials and asked carpenters to make them.

By luck, Pao discovered materials made by "differently abled" people, allowing the school to help both the kids who would use the materials and the people who made them.

The hard work paid off. "If you're really fighting for a cause, *hindi ka talaga matatalo*," said Andy.

Their three dreams turned into reality in 2004, when the doors of Barangay Marilag Kindergarten for Literacy (BMKL) opened its doors for the children in the community.

The school, located in Project 4, Quezon City, offers a Montessori education for kids of preschool age.

But the challenges didn't stop there. The turnover of teachers was too quick because

MONTESSORI/D3



PAO-PAO and the pink tower

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## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- To maximize your Sun Sult Calls, make sure you do not have 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited and Paylite Call & Text Unlimited.
- If you are still enjoying the pre-loaded service of your newly activated Sun Cellular Prepaid SBA (SIM) with 7 days of 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited or 12 days of Paylite Call & Text Unlimited, load your Sun Sult Calls after the free service expires.

Get more Local Sun-to-Sun minutes when you combine Sun Sult Calls with any of the following:

<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts and 4 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 30 days)</p>	=	<p>5 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls &amp; Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 30 days)</p>
<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts &amp; 1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	=	<p>2 Hours of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls &amp; Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 7 days)</p>
<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days)</p>	+	<p>Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 2 days)</p>	=	<p>1 Hour of Local Sun-to-Sun Calls (valid for 7 days) &amp; Unlimited Local Sun-to-Sun Texts (valid for 2 days)</p>



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Per DA-ACR Permit No. 2853, dated 05/20/06



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FOXTROT

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BY JESS ABRERA



BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

PUGAD BABOY

BY RM. JUNIOR



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



ATOMO AND WEBBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



KIKO MACHINE

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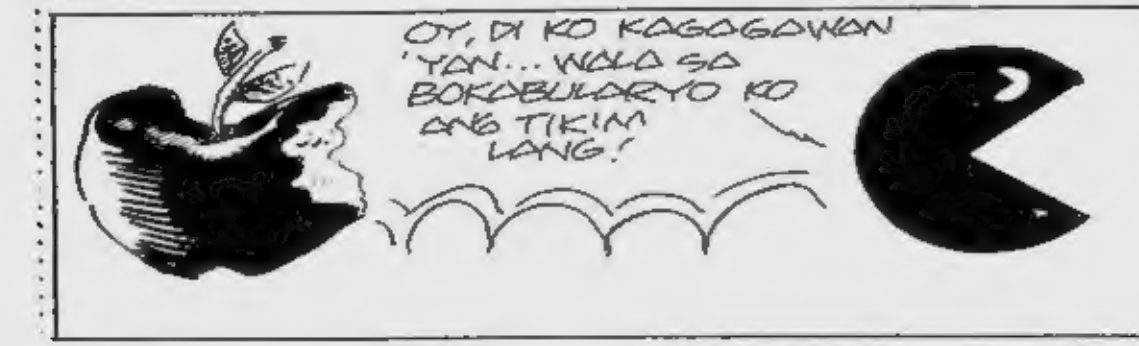


TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON

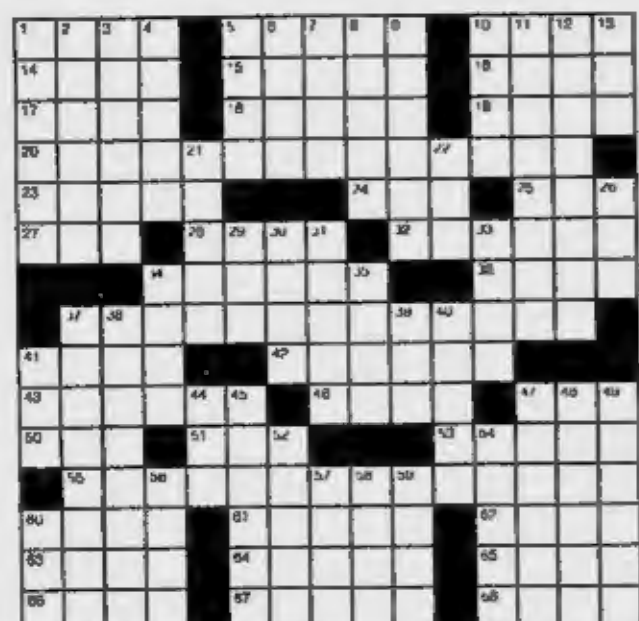


DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTS SU DOKU

- ACROSS**
- Eurasian vipers
  - First vice president
  - Nui (Easter Island)
  - Grub
  - Sauna wear
  - Pitcher
  - Hershtler
  - Barrett or Jaffe
  - Create big hair
  - Old Atlanta arena
  - So-so sailor?
  - Minutes taker, perhaps
  - From 1/1/06 'til now
  - Sumo surface
  - Russ. or Lith., once
  - Steakhouse specification
  - Tranquil
  - Mississippi city
  - Poker payment
  - So-so perps?
  - Binary digits
  - Queen of mysteries
  - Lists of
  - Salty drop
  - Posed
  - Startled response
  - Old DJ's stack
  - Horse opera
  - So-so nicely?
  - Gumbo veggie
  - Silver Ghost, briefly
  - Procedural
  - Circus statue
  - Get the better of
  - Sports transaction
  - Back-to-school mo.
  - Concept in Caen
  - Waste conduit
  - Hurl
- DOWN**
- On the other side of
  - Bermudas, e.g.
  - Consider
  - Young shepherd
  - Boyl
  - Active one
  - Not at home
  - Disorderly
  - Falls as ice
  - Chamber
  - Preparation for
  - Triangular flags
  - Rope-a-dope
  - Water wheel
  - Sidewalk stand offering
  - NFL prop
  - That's... folks!
  - Wine choice
  - Rejoice
  - Risque
  - Boon's counterpart
  - Man or Capri
  - Revealed, as a mystery
  - Pipit's cousin
  - Soup type
  - Wrong call
  - Spanish bear
  - Shade tree
  - ESPN element
  - Old sound system
  - Fables
  - Secret meetings
  - Sleep soundly?
  - Banned big
  - Aussie's amigo
  - Taion
  - Ye... Shoppe
  - Kind of friendly?
  - Kimono sash



By Philip J. Anderson  
Portland, OR

6/28/06

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved



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**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're dynamic and interested in many things. You appreciate the arts and have cultivated interests. You garner the respect of others. You have excellent people skills. You know what you want and you get it! Powerful people fascinate you. In your mid-50s, your love of art and beautiful things increases. A breezy, social year awaits you. Romance can blossom!

**Birthday:** Kathy Bates, actress; Mel Brooks, actor/director; John Cusack, actor

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): During the next two to three weeks, enjoy working with arts and crafts. You are the artisan of the zodiac. Working creatively with your hands gives you a sense of satisfaction.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Family discussions with the productive in the next month. Wrap up family business and enjoy good over, or visit your parents. Wrap up family business and enjoy good

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): Today your ruler, Mercury, moves into the sign of Leo. This brings added drama and activity to your life for the next month! You've got things to do, people to see and places to go.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): Like Taurus, you're never casual about money. In the next three to four weeks, you'll be full of moneymaking ideas. You'll also focus more on your cash flow.

**LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today Mercury moves into your sign and goes retrograde on July 4. Stay on top of car repairs. Expect mixed-up communications in the next month. Checks in the mail will be late. (Buy

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're busy schmoozing with old trends, groups, clubs and organizations. You're out there flying your colors for the next three to four

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're busy schmoozing with old trends, groups, clubs and organizations. You're out there flying your colors for the next three to four

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Right now, Mercury is at the top of your chart, bringing you into contact with previous jobs, bosses and old opportunities for the next month. (Could be a second chance!)

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You love to travel. In the next month, travel plans will be

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is not a good time to divide things among others. If you're dealing with shared property or jointly held possessions, make sure you defend your

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Old partners are back in your life again. Look great at all times. (Living well is the

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): The possibility of new romantic interest with

				7					
4	9	5		3	1	7	2		
		2			5				
5	2								
				5	6	9			
							5	3	
		1				6			
7	6	9	4			8	3	1	
			3						

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

by 28

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at [www.sudoku.com](http://www.sudoku.com)

Answer to previous puzzle

2	6	3	7	1	8	5	4	9	
8	1	9	5	4	3	7	2	6	
5	4	7	9	2	6	3	8	1	
7	3	5	1	8	9	4	6	2	
6	8	4	2	3	7	1	9	5	
9	2	1	4	6	5	8	3	7	
4	9	6	3	7	1	2	5	8	
1	5	2	8	9	4	6	7	3	
3	7	8	6	5	2	9	1	4	

Difficulty Level ★★

by 28





BARANGAY captain Andy with the kids



LEARNING with pencil and paper...



...and with special materials



TEACHER Pao and Dom

## Montessori for the masses

From page D1

the volunteers just received a little allowance. The tuition the parents pay mainly go to the school's expenses and to the purchase of new materials.

But Pao, who had taken the role as a school principal, persisted, trying to find young educators with a passion for children and a heart for service. She seems to have succeeded with her current batch of teachers—Claire, Donna, Jean, Cha, Karen.

It also took some time to explain their methods to parents who have not been exposed to the Montessori way of teaching.

### Holistic approach

"The Montessori method is holistic, it doesn't only pertain to academic," Pao said. "There is a lot of focus on practical life. I think it's important for parents to ask—why do we send our children to school? Is it because it's a tradition, it's a norm in society? We lose focus on the basic reason—to prepare the children for life."

"Parents normally think, we'll send our kids to school so they can find jobs later on. But that's too far ahead in the future. What about teaching them to cope with their present life?"

Montessori schools give a lot of focus on teaching the children independence and responsibility. Lessons allow kids to work as individuals or in small groups and at their own pace.

"You need to teach them how to cope with their present life—from holding a spoon to pouring water," Pao said. "We teach them how to fold clothes, shine shoes, sweep the floor, clean the crumbs, set tables, open and close bottles."

Thus, the need for special school materials. The method believes in letting the kids gain experience.

"They learn from what they see, hear, smell and touch. It's sensorial," Pao said. "We believe learning is not just paper and pencil. We let them experience life. And when they're ready, that's when we give them books."

Pao also believes the Montessori method helps the kids develop a love for work and school. "The materials are our treasures and the kids know that. They clean them up after they use them."

### Model school

When we visited the school, we noticed how enthusiastic kids were about their classes.

In the sharing area, they sang in English and Tagalog, they prayed and recited poems. And when it was individual time, they headed for the shelves and chose the materials they wanted to use. When they were done, they returned the materials to the shelves.



A LESSON in opening and closing bottles



HAVING fun while learning

### How can you change the world of education?

- If you're a teacher or an education student, volunteer to teach young kids. Your presence is as important as the lessons you will teach.
- If your barangay is in need of a good school for kids, ask the people behind BMKL for help.
- Donate your old books and toys to the children of your barangay.
- Share your skills with kids. You can spend weekends teaching kids how to dance, draw, cook, and play musical instruments.



JOSHUA and Adonis



ARCHITECT Matty and Faith



TEACHER Cha with the kids



DREAM come true

nal shelves.

The kids were well-behaved and discipline. Even those who were crying at first soon quieted down when they realized how much fun the class could be.

There are two multilevel classes at BMKL. "Having different kids of different ages in one class teaches kids how to socialize with other people, how to deal with them," Pao said. "In real life, you don't just meet people of the same age. You will deal with people younger and older than you are. That's why we put them together."

Parents who at first didn't understand the method became appreciative when they saw how much their kids loved school.

Pao said she's proud to see her kids grow up. But she says it's only the beginning.

"I still have many dreams," she said, "I

want to have a playground for the kids. I also want to start a street education program—street teachers for street children, I want to bring the school to the streets."

Pao said she would like to see other communities offering quality education for their own barangays. "BMKL can be a template of that and we can help them. It burdens me to see when a young mind is deprived of learning because of financial inadequacy. Educating our young can help build a better nation," she added.

BMKL is located at Plaza Camerino, Barangay Marilag, Project 4, Quezon City. Call 4395134 or e-mail teacherpao@gmail.com or bmklinderforlit@gmail.com.

What are you doing to change the world? Let us know. E-mail [ls\\_2bu@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph).

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## Easy-to-do skincare regimen

AS A CHILD, I NEVER UNDERSTOOD what skin lotions and face creams were for; I simply assumed they were part of the "grownup" rituals I would experience only when I hit my 30s or have

three kids, whichever came first.

Imagine what was going through my mind when I felt compelled to purchase my first moisturizer even before my 18th birthday—I seriously feared I

was aging prematurely! Because I had extremely dry skin (unlike most people in puberty), my complexion looked dull and rough, and required a little hydrating help.

I've been using my "grownup" potions since.

I've since developed my very own rituals to keep my skin soft and smooth from head to toe. With the many skin-polishing options within our reach, keeping the best skin you can achieve is just a few products away.



Lora Gabol

skincare label Murad are the Vitalic and Acne ranges. Both address specific needs but deliver smooth results with regular use, and come in synergistically designed sets that are to be used together for stronger and faster results.

I'd recommend the pomegranate-based Vitalic range to boost cell turnover more than anything else—this preparation may be too

weak for those who want to battle acne at the same time.

For blemishes, the Acne Kit is highly recommended, and I'd advise users to stock up on the Exfoliating Gel, a smoothening treatment that can be used even under makeup; it never irritates or causes skin to peel.

Relatively good complexions will get even better with vitamin-rich products that up skin health without disrupting skin's balance.

I love Apivita Multivitamin Face Cream, a deliciously scented light moisturizer with Vitamin C from orange extract. It also has the extra protective antioxidant properties of green tea. This is the healthiest thing you can "feed" your skin!

For sleeping beauties who wish to take care of their skin even as they snooze, you'll love Nivea Whitening Night Cream. This spot-busting moisturizer evens out skintone while maximizing your skin's natural repair mechanism during crucial rest hours. The jojoba oil content nourishes skin without clogging pores, keeping breakouts from too-rich formulations at bay.

**Professional treatments.** For skin polishing, I, of course, only trust my suki, Belo Medical Group, with the newest scrubs, peels and facials. Before you head to those mall-chain face salons, think again and go instead for a consultation with a trusted skin clinic. Must-tries on my list are the Jet Peel (which uses a liquid exfoliant instead of crystals) and Spanish Peel. The former is a refreshing alternative to the usual microdermabrasion, the latter an amazing solution to deep acne scars and discoloration.

Nivea, D'Oreal, St. Ives, Neutrogena at PCX and other health and beauty stores; Shu Uemura at Rustan's; Murad and Apivita at Essences, Rustan's; NuSkin from accredited dealers in Manila. For Belo Medical Group, call 8177178 or 8179283, or visit [www.belomed.com](http://www.belomed.com). E-mail the author at [lora\\_gabol@yahoo.com](mailto:lora_gabol@yahoo.com).

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